ANIMAL CONFERENCE

(A satire and allegory on Atom & H-Bombs.)

&

JUNGLE CONFERENCE

(A satire on Push-button Warfare).

by

SHAUKAT USMANI

(alias Sikandar Sur).

Revised and enlarged

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DEDICATED

TO

THE MEMORY OF

ANIMAL VICTIMS OF THE BIKINI

ATOM BOMB EXPERIMENT.

Other works of the author :-

(In English)

Peshawar To Moscow. (*In 6 languages*)

Four Travellers. (*In 4 languages*)

Night of The Eclipse.

(In Urdu)

Anmole Kahanian. } In Hindi also.
Char Musafir. }

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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE

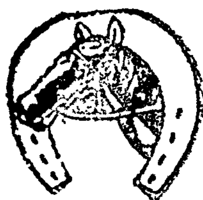
Let us put it quite squarely at the very outset that what prompted us to bring out this book was neither the popularity of the author, who has played some part in the Indian political struggle, nor the fact of his twice being adopted by the British working class as their candidate for the British Parliament, once against Sir John Simon. We have not been influenced by his style either and nor his satire had any inducement for us.

The simple factor which has induced us to bring out this book is the bare fact that this piece has been accepted by the entire world press, wherever it has been reviewed, as the peace message. The letters of the eminent persons, from the U. N. circles to the Leftists of the world, from the Indian Rightists to the extreme revolutionaries, all had hailed this book as the 'Peace Message'.

We are also interested in peace, since we do not believe in wars. No other ideologies have influenced us.

We are thus placing this book before our readers to see whether we can correctly advance the mission of peace.

Publishers



PREFACE

In the end of the third week of December, 1948, during an evening while I was celebrating one of my birthdays over a tumbler of cold water I was pondering over my contributions of he year. Mental research revealed that I had contributed 24 short stories to the Urdu magazines, some 17 articles to the English Press covering from the Atlantic States to the Middle East and South East Asiatic countries in my treatment. A novel in Urdu and some articles on Art & Literature, I was dissatisfied with the results. The review left me as cold as the cold water tumbler lying before me with its contents cooling my heart or which rather had poured cold water over one more year of my life that was terminating on that day. I said to myself: this will not do, let there be something new: and the new came out of the shelves of my brain. It was the outline of Animal World and the Bomb. My imagination took me to the Downs of the Himalayas, and I took up my pen and traced the outline of the Conference. The first Animal Conference appeared in the Urdu 'Dawn'' on the 1st, January 1949 and in "Socialist'' on the second; and thereafter Conference after Conference came out in three serials. The Indo-Pak Press picked up and reproduced these three Conferences upto the June of that year and may be after that too.

This encouraged me and I rendered the whole thing into English, since I do most of my writing and journalism in that language. It ought to be remembered that my first attempt at writing books was in English, and the first piece, which was a child's play went into editions in 6 languages and odd. It seems the Indian sub-continent encourages childish works.

The translation of Animal Conference, as soon as it was ready, I sent to an English friend who wrote me back: "find it fascinating". I was thrilled and thanked my friend Montague Slater (a famous British man of letters) for his encouragement. I thank my friend M. Slater for encouragement and my cousin Mr. E. B. Usta, for the picture of Animal Conference.

Dated 6th May, 1950.

Shaukat Usmani.

INTRODUCTION

When the Urdu version of the " ANIMAL CONFERENCE " appeared in the vernacular Press many intelligent people approached the writer. These consisted of former Deputy Collectors, Students, Pleaders and Doctors, all with one question :

"Please, be good enough to elighten us as to against which government is this directed. Is it a satire on Pakistani officialdom or on the Indian one ?"

The author smiled and replied, "It is a satire on the lost human virtues of mankind."

The readers are requested to judge for themselves the correctness or otherwise of this reply.



"MANGUIN REPUBLICS"

When the great metamorphosis took place in the Indian sub-continent in the third quarter of the year of Grace, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Seven, great many changes occurred in the brains of men. Men became animals, animals turned humane.

Vijeynagar floods in Rajasthan in 1942 rainy season showed the true gentle nature of animals, when all animals, cats and dogs, carnivora and reptiles, goats and hares, all floated together on the same drifting planks in the swift moving waters of the floods, without harming one another. And the 1947 upheaval showed the true ferocious nature of man. And thereafter ensued an era, unprecedented in history, when job-hunters and position seekers from all directions rushed to the fold of New Delhi administration— pushing aside from their path all those sincere people who had been consistently, persistently and sedulously carrying on the great struggle for the liberation of Mother India. The efforts of the sincere revolutionaries were stopped, cut short and slashed in the way; progress was hampered, the course of national revolution barricaded, and the opportunists demanded their 'due' share in the Chimera—the new administration.

Revolutionaries got frustrated: they got more violent—if not in deeds than at least in words and spirit. Theosophists turned into occult alchemists, philosophers into puerile savants. Heroes of yesterday became back-numbers, and upstarts became the reinholders of people. The world got topsyturvy; and everything was inverted. It was exactly at this stage in Indian history that our mind turned to finding out as to what was really wrong in man and noble in animals. As the Persian saying goes, "Joinda yabinda" (One who seeks, finds,) we got at the truth. It was wrapped, neatly and carefully, in old manuscripts of sacred leaves of Bhoj patra,* the spacious leaves which have supplied the

*In ancient India these leaves were used for writing purposes. There are specimen of the same still preserved in all the museums and ancient families.

civilised people of our ancestral age with the wherewithals for putting down their annals and science treasures, at a time when paper was scarce, and, was as a matter of fact, not yet invented.

To our utter surprise we found out in these wraps that there were 'Manguin Kingdoms' throughout the entire world. Perhaps the derivation of the term 'Manguin' comes from mammals, manatee or from mandrill or even from man; we are not sure— being neither anthropologists nor any seer or savant. We cannot make out what is meant by 'Manguin'. But this much is clear to us from the study of these sacred leaves of Bhoj patra that 'Manguin Kingdoms' were civilised forms of animal governments which were broken up when the Son of Cain evolved on earth. He broke them up, as he is in the habit of breaking everything good and beneficial. Perusing the interesting description from these leaves we became restless, and took to the Almora Hills in U. P. Far and wide did we roam in search of truth, as truth is always in the mountains. We found out and unearthed what we needed and sought for. The truth about the Pre-Man-Age dawned on us as if in a trance. We were, naturally, thrilled by revelations. The wild interested us more than the 'civilised' human surroundings. We found more sincerity in the animals, and of course we find very much lip-sincerity in man. Man is cunning. We do not say that women are also so, since these poor things are just a toy in the hands of this species which goes by the name of man.

Any way we are not going to indulge in the controversy whether the birth or evolution of human beings was correct or just a Celestial experiment, or just a freak of nature, as they say. We are not much concerned. But here we have to solve a problem about our own-selves. Our Bombay people thought us to be lost for a long time. Some thought 1947 riots had taken the toll and we were in the world of the unknown; some believed we had evaporated in thin air to appear again. School boys and girls thought we had gone to perform another foot journey like our "PESHAWAR TO MOSCOW"; but none of the things has occurred. There are some of our war time jail mates who think rather openly

and aloud that we had left India because we were not offered any diplomatic job by the new Indian Government, and that we had, thus offended, gone away to far off Jamaica to experiment with a new variety of potatoes, or that we had settled down in Florida to open up a poultry farm there, since they allege, we were much interested in gardening and poultry when we were in jail with them. But nothing of the sort has happened; we remain in our country (India) and we assure all that with the assiduous efforts of nearly two years after 1947 it is only now in 1949 that we have been able to dig out the truth about the 'Manguins'. Believe us or not, we have in our possession, several proceedings of the Animal Conferences, and if one reads them, one will find to one's utter chagrin or dismay—according to one's mood, temperament or disposition—that the animal world, as before, is once more quite conscious and awake, and is planning against mankind. But man is planning against himself, against his kith and kin. Of course, we are not against man, since we are also unfortunately man, but does it mean to check us from laying down before you the voluminous account of the Animal Conferences.? We assure our good readers that it is not banned. Even the Nazis would not have banned such a harmless thing, but then there is a possibility of the account being banned on the other side of our Hemisphere. Yon can, in that case, appeal to the Hague Court against such an injudicious action. But remember, the Hague has gone Vague after the Dutch lost and found Indonesia.



ANIMAL CONFERENCE

In the lowlands of Nepal, under the foot of the lofty Himalayas, a lion was leisurely romping about in quest of some prey. He was rather moody and a bit philosophical today. His gait was silent and majestic, more so under his reverie: a new habit suddenly acquired under new and changing circumstances. His head was bent, which is no characteristic of this species. Beyond the shrubs he espied an elephant trampling bamboos and scattered leaves of the same. The lion darted forward and wagging docilely, like a dog, his long tail, approached the elephant, who was rather startled by this sudden and unexpected intrusion. The Lion raised his big head, as if wishing, and the elephant caught the gesture in quite a friendly manner. The lion smiled, and with great earnestness and confidence said:

"Hullo! The god of dimensions and apostle of bulk and grace! How is your Honour and Greatness? I want to have some friendly chat, nay, rather some serious talk with you today. I was searching for you all this time. I have been thinking of talking to you for a long time. Good, that you have crossed me now to-day. It is an important matter of common interest. I am prepared to broach if you are prepared to lend your ear to me. I want your wise and able opinion on a particular topic of our age."

The elephant raised high his massive trunk in appreciation, laughed and said :

"Hey! Well, well! But what about your eternal adviser, Miss Fox; since when have you stopped consulting her good-self?"

Lion: "Leave it gentle folk. Enough of this prattle! I am going to consult you on a very important subject of life and death to all the animal world. Do you listen big boss?"

Elephant: "I am attentive then. Begin please. I am all attention."

Lion: "The matter in simple terms is this: We the denizens of jungles have so far strayed and fallen out from one another. I desire that we meet again and foment brotherhood amongst

ourselves. We deliberate on future problems which are facing us. Atomic war is very near, and human species is about to cease to exist hereafter. Once more we shall get the full control of 'Mother' Earth. We have to deliberate over this possibility of the entire earth falling into our hands once more. Think it coolly. Do you listen great man? This is the problem my good folk. Do you realise?"

Elephant: "Yes, splendid! Then why should we not call a conference of all the animals and decide all outstanding problems and wise questions suggested by your good-self? I am all for it.

"To tell you directly as a matter of habit and instinct I do not trust any flesh eater; but since you have approached me today with an open heart, I am reposing confidence in you. I welcome your move and assure you that I have also got very much to say on the atomic war.

"Let us give a lead and make necessary preparations for the forthcoming Conference."

The elephant trumpeted, lifting up his massive and elegant trunk, and the lion roared. The admixture of the two sounds gave a gurgling rattle. A conference was thus announced to all. Moreover, the lion made the fox run the errand and announce far and wide the proposal about the Conference. The cunning fox not only announced the conference but asked every one who came in her way to become the messenger and inform all that such a momentous huge conference would be taking place on the first of January in the lowlands of Himalayas at a site where human beings would not be able to reach by any means. All approaches to this site were barred and sealed to all mankind.

All animals assembled: Carnivora, birds, fishes, over-ground and underearth—in a word all having life came to the Conference. Only man was absent. He seemed to have been boycotted. Animals regarded it much below their dignity to tolerate him. He was considered too base to deserve the honour of their good company.

Crocodile represented the lake and river animals, and Swan and Waterfowl represented the Sea-World. It was a beautiful assemblage. Cow, Goat, Fox, Monkey, Tortoise, Hare, Ostrich, Giraffe, Camel, Heron, Horse, Deer, Lion, Cat, Leopard, Dog, Tiger, Elephant, Crow, Kite, Kangaroo, Vulture, Cock, etc., all of them participated in this great meeting. The site selected was so near the lake that a part of the Conference reflected in its still water. It was a hundred percent beautiful show.

Elephant, raising his trunk very high, taking a few steps out of the ring, bowed very respectfully to all and proceeded in his usual inspiring way thus:—

"Friends and comrades, I request you that the Conference should be declared open and I humbly propose the name of Miss Fox for the Chair."

Cat: "What fault has my nephew (meaning thereby, Lion) committed that he should not be proposed for this eminent post? He is known as King of the Jungles; why should then we not accept his name ipso facto as Chairman?

Hare, flapping violently both his ears against one another: "What are you saying my good dame! Don't butt in where wisdom is concerned. This is an age of science and craftiness. It is a Brain-Age; intellect and cleverness, diplomacy and tactics are needed, my good dame! It is no more a matter of physical valour, Individual prowess counts for nothing. Collective strength is in demand, and this is concentred in our great friend, Miss Fox. You understand, I suppose?"

Fox, waving slyly her right ear, which was erect, and dropping still lower the left one, retorted: "No, Sir, no. I am unfit for the job. This is a matter of responsibility and weight, which should be borne by Mr. Elephant or by Mr. Lion. Weight-lifting is not my task. I solve all my problems by a single, slight wagging and motion of my brushy tail."

Laughter all round.

Lion: "If I had not to speak too much in this Conference and put in various suggestions which I have got up my sleeve

(to put it in the language of mankind) I would surely not shirk or decline the offer so very generously pressed by two members. I thank them and decline. And, I assure all, I am doing no disservice in doing so.

Elephant: " If I had not a prior talk and negotiations with Mr. Lion then of course I would not have hesitated in putting up his name for the Presidentship. It would have been a matter of great delight and pride for me to do thus."

Cat, twisting her few moustaches with her paw, "My nephew, please, (addressing the Lion) why don't you propose the name of Mr. Elephant? Has he got less prudence than Miss Fox, I mean no insult or affront to Miss Fox by these remarks, all the same.? "

Wolf: " Oh Madame, how to put it! You are impossible! Why are you unnecessarily complicating the issue at stake. Just see the huge wave (pointing to the delegates) how many they are, and how many of them can be elected presidents all at the same time, Miss? How many can preside at the same time in the same Conference? Why should we not accept the name of Miss Fox which has been so aptly supported by Mr. Lion himself? Remember, after all, Fox is the adviser of Mr. Lion."

Cow shook her moon-like horns, Camel, his long neck, Dog wagged his tail, and the Monkey quivered his nostrils in assent. Fox was unanimously elected Chairman.

President: " Before declaring the Conference open to discussion I wish to thank you all for the honour you have conferred on me. You have amply proved by this bold gesture that we are now entering a new phase, a democratic period of governance; honour to me is honour to all the weak and insignificant animals. I declare the Conference open, with these words, and request Mr. Elephant and Mr. Lion to lay down the main agenda before the House. "

Lion, with his neck lowered, strode to the side of the President and saluting all, roared and said: " Miss President and Comrades, I thank you all for the honour you have conferred on

me and on my friend, Mr. Elephant, by responding to our humble suggestion for holding this historic assemblage. It is a grand occasion today to meet you all, thus. I declare from this rostrum of Liberty Equality and Fraternity that we are all one from now on and shall co-operate hereafter just as did our great ancestors in the 'Manguin Kingdoms.' Our new Republics will bear the same holy name of 'Manguins' and we shall call our new domains by the sacred name of 'MANGUIN REPUBLICS.' This is my very humble suggestion—open to all criticism.

"I am glad to announce that the Satanic rule of man is entering its last phase. It is going to be over now, by his own ill-doing. Man has, by now, assimilated in himself all the adjuncts of his destruction. These are human contradictions that are bringing about his ruin and fall. The invention of Atom and H-Bombs is a very happy augury and it convinces us that the descendent of Adam will not survive now any more his own stupid, crazy innovations.

"We thank our gnomes and deities. You are aware perhaps that so long as this aeroplane was not in existence how freely we wandered about in the jungles, seas, rivers and lakes, but ever since the invention of this aerial demon—this winged monster—we are in constant dread. Nobody can predict when this abominable machine may appear up in the skies and drop a bomb or poison gas. You know how I detest mankind. I do not approve of anything he does. But then I read his newspapers whenever I come upon them or have got any leisure for this idiosyncrasy. I read these with interest.

"A short time ago a well groomed 'gentleman-at-large', in coat, pants and sola-hat came for hunting me.

Mr. Lion put in this sentence with a broad satiric and cynical smile, and the audience roared with laughter.

"He climbed" continued Mr. Lion, "an improvised platform on one of the taller trees during the evening and spent the entire night in waiting for me. I am too shrewd not to sense human mischief.

"The man had a newspaper and in it were wrapped some sandwiches and a good decent amount of other eatables. He finished everything and threw down the paper after that. Getting disappointed he came down and took his way back homewards in the morning. I, of course, spared him totally—since I cared less for human flesh than for the newspaper, I being no man-eater. I picked up the newspaper and the first headline which struck me was: '*DEFENCE OF GREAT BRITAIN IMPOSSIBLE IN ATOMIC WARFARE.*"* I was grieved awfully because of the affinities with Winston Churchill, whose face resembles mine very much, and Great Britain is, as you all know, his country."

Just here Lion was interrupted by a sharp shrill bark of Dog: "How! How! Hoon! Hoon! Point of order, Miss President."

President: "All right, granted, what is that you want to say ?"

Dog: "I take serious objection to Mr. Lion's remarks about Churchill's face resembling his massive one. As a matter of proved, universally accepted fact, the face resembles with that of our clan in the line of Bull-dog. It is a question of caste. I would not allow a mis statement to go unchallenged."

President: "It is not so very important a point of objection, Mr. Dog, you may claim Winston Churchill as your kinsman, we have no objection. It is quite a minor point, you see. Mr. Lion you have the floor. Please, resume."

Lion: "I assure Mr. Dog that I do not insist on my precede. He may claim Churchill in entirety I have absolutely no objection to this. We have no quarrel whatsoever on this particular point. Resuming my original topic, I beg to say that under the headline just mentioned in the newspaper, I read that an Australian Radar expert, a doctor, had asserted that British Isles were unsafe, and none would have the chance to survive in case of Atomic war. He further advised the 40 million Britons to emigrate away to one of the Dominions of the Commonwealth for safety in that case.

*An actual headline in a Karachi Daily in the end of 1948.

"I mean to announce, therefore, to the mirth and pleasure of all, that very shortly we are going to get these Isles for nothing, without any efforts or exertion on our part. And what of these Isles, we hope to get gradually all the lands of the Western Hemisphere, Eurasia, Africa, Australasia etc. What was ours once, will be in our possession once more through the Satanic devilry of man. You know we very wrongfully deprived of our possessions by man when he acquired mastery over dangerous lethal weapons.

"It is just possible that man will not survive the next Atomic War, but even if he does, then it is our duty, the special duty of the monkeys and all baboona as also that of the birds not to allow him to re-inhabit the trees like his ancestors of yore did, nor we the carnivora are going to give him any opportunity to gain possession of the caves again. We shan't even allow him to come near them. According to my humble calculation, or may I say humbly, according to a vague notion in my head, this Atomic War will begin within these fifteen years or less; and as a sequence of this no human being would survive any longer. Granted, if some are left unfinished, man is then capable of inventing still more deadlier weapons to finish up his human progeny. Man is heading towards extinction and complete destruction. I needs say no more. Let others speak, please",

So saying Mr. Lion sat down.

Elephant: "I was captured by man during the last War when Japan invaded India. What I saw and heard there is marvellous. It is rather incredible and yet true. If I believe it, my wisdom and logical understanding forbid, if I do not, then my ears and eyes call me a betrayer. Believe me, it is absolutely true. Japanese were talking amongst themselves that some Rays were invented which were more deadly and effective than hundred Atom Bombs. They were known by the name af 'Death-Rays'. Men did not use them just the same way that Hitler possessed and did not use all the Atomic secrets, and it is said, he desisted from the use on 'moral grounds'. Hitler, it is said, had full control over all Atomic energy but this 'unholy' task was left to U. S. A.

to use the Atom Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am, of course, not concerned with the moral values of the issue, but to us this is a point of mere information."

Horse: " I was in U. S. A. during the last war, and, as you know, I am the denizen of those parts. I heard it so often there that U. S. A. intended to pound the Soviet Union with the same Atom Bomb. on grounds of class-war. I mean to say that the U. S. A. wanted to turn the war into a class-war and finish with, for ever, the danger of Communism, Bolshevism and all 'isms' connected with Socialism; but the sad knowledge that the Russians possessed the secrets greater than Atom Bomb and Death-Rays made U. S. A. desist and grasp realities and forego sentiments. I have nothing more to add to your knowledge in this respect. I wish I could say more but then there will be difficulties when I return, and I might be turned back as an undesirable denizen, or might be prosecuted in one of the newly enacted laws to ban free speech."

Monkey : " They call me imitator, and in my role as such I have made many discoveries and copied out the most dreadful inventions of man. If permitted by you we can use man's weapons on himself, with no casualties on our side. I seek permission."

Lion: "Imitation is no novelty, it is no grace or talent; it is sheer plagiarism. We are opposed to it. We want to strengthen our defence lines and not to take to offensive. Man is quite capable of taking offensive against himself."

Crocodile: " Comrade President, brothers, sisters and children, I quite understand the all-round anxiety about the defence side, but I have got some grave doubts and I should like them to be cleared. I know that even if animal defences can be strengthened everywhere. there are frightful difficulties about the rivers, lakes and seas, as also all water reservoirs in mountains and plains. These places are quite accessible to man."

President: " I quite catch your point. Though I should not speak much at this stage but for the sake of clarification and imparting knowledge, it is necessary that I should say something in this matter. All should remember that there are amongst us ani-

mals like Hare, Mouse, Dormouse and my humble-self who can grind the mountains into antimony powder. We shall construct such safe places for you in the caves and provide you with water-beds that even the thoughts of man would not be able to penetrate there. But, above all, I have to reveal a great secret to you all, and that is about that water-spring under the laps of a mountain which produces gasses, vapours and steams, the slight effect of which make Radar products and Atomic weapons useless and harmless; it is life-water.* All energy is sucked out of them as blood is sucked out of a pore by a leach. If we bring into operation and use the waters from that marvellous, miraculous spring just at this period, I mean, right now, it means then that we want to protect man from the ravages of Atomic warfare. We ought, on the contrary, do as I propose: We should use only so much life-water of that Spring as much will protect our new possessions and places of our living by creating the clouds of these vapours and gasses over them. I further emphasise that there would be no need for leaving the lakes, rivers, seas and other water abodes if we set fire to this water and hang gasseous clouds of this over them. This will save trouble to our water comrades of migration away from their domains."

Dog: "Where is that Spring?"

Cat: "I also desire the information."

Lion: "First of all you both take the oath of leaving the company of man, then we shall tell every secret to you."

Dog: "But what about [illegible], Camel, Cow, Crow, Buffallo, Sheep, Goat, Ram, Sparrow [illegible] etc.? What about Horse and other odd animals who l[illegible] man and on man?"

Lion: "There is a differance. These animals are in constant danger from man, and you are his dear pets. This is all the matter. You understand perhaps.!"

Cat: "We are not in a position to leave man just now. We cannot desert hi[illegible] at present. But remember, my good nephew,**

*Aab-i-Baqa.

**In Indian literature cat is called the aunt of lion.

that just as I did not teach you the great secret of tree-climbing, I don't reveal anything to man by which he can benefit. I do not divulge my secrets to man inspite of his cruelly prodding. I steal his."

Dog: "I am not in a position at present either to give up the company of man, as you know I have been already driven out of the woods by my younger brother, Mr. Wolf. Inspite of man's grilling me I have not taught him the method of gaining control on Mr. Wolf. Further, everyone of you knows that I possess the knowledge of hidden treasures in the earth and yet inspite of the constant company of and nearness to man I have not allowed him to gain possession on them, for the simple reason that more wealth in the hands of man will lead to the breeding of more Satanic inventions. Trust me, Sire!"

President: " We trust no body. Both of you, cat and yourself, have to leave the meeting. Quit! If you give out our secrets to man you know what will be the consequences. We want to have no prospective spies amidst us."

Cat and Dog, both together: "We shall obey, but we want to convey that this Mr. Crow is also an employee of man. He is known as a Municipal worker. He goes on cleaning the entire cities; and even men are punished for killing him."

Crow: "I, Yes, O, I ! I mean to say that I go and come only into the towns during the days for food and earning, but I pass my nights away from human surroundings. I live on tree-tops, if you know it. But you two are his dear pets who live by him day and night."

Cat and Dog: "Allow us to stay in the cities with man till the next War begins, we shall be serving our comrades from that distance also."

Dog: "As you are all aware, Sirs, the newspapers of the master daily fall into my hands first. I read them thoroughly and collect all the valuable information. I shall be from now onwords despatching all useful news to our Committee through the medium of Mr. Crow or Pigeon. I can prove that I read the

newspapers daily, and here is the proof: Mr. Lion, while giving out information about Radar expert, had omitted out that Dr. David F. Marten was the Radar expert who had sounded the warning danger to British Isles during the coming War of Atoms. I know this, because I read the newspapers minutely, with interest and very keenly. I remember all that is useful to us. May I stay or go?"

Cat: "And I too, should I stay or go away?"

President: "I am satisfied with the explanations. Stay with man till the war only. Has some one else to say anything in the matter?"

Mouse: "May I stay too in the city till the war begins?"

President: "Yes, you should also do, who told you not. We do not doubt your integrity; you as a matter of fact do him more harm than good.

"If none else has to speak I propose to close the session for the day. Let the resolutions or suggestions come up as no body is stirring to speak. Every body seems to be tired," the President remarked thus after perceiving that his enquiry about the next speaker did not find favour any where.

Lion: "I most humbly beg to place this Omnibus Resolution for deliberations before the House:—

1. That this Conference adopts unanimously that the animals should gain full control over the waters of that Spring which contains such life-water, which, when burnt, produces gasses, vapours, clouds and steams, antagonistic to all Radar energy—anti-electronic and all pervading.

2. "Proposed and adopted that a Central Executive Committee be formed with Messrs. Elephant, Wolf, Bat, Tortoise, Crocodile, Fox, Hare, Ostrich, Monkey, Giraffe, Zebra and Bear.

3. "Adopted that the Conferences be held annually on proper dates, and if possible before the year expires. Special sessions be approved of.

4. " Adopted that the access to mankind should be denied in the Himalayan lowlands and the Arctic regions, which were the original habitat of our ancestors. Proposed that these places should be made Atom and H-Bombs-proof, and that the clouds of gasseous vapours of that miraculous Spring-water be spread over these valleys and lands. Access to man be barred in advance to some mountains, gorges and caves, so that he might not escape to those places when his race is under extinction by the Atomic War.

5. " Adopted that as soon as there is a question of Atom or H-Bomb experiment we should spread aforesaid vapoury clouds over our regions in self-defence. We should make our living places and abodes proof against all human weapons.

6. " Adopted that we redistribute the entire earth as soon as the human progeny finishes itself up after the Atomic war.

7. " Finally adopted that our system of governance should be run on democratic lines and principles, and we should show a little more self-sacrifice and give up meat."

There was a bit of a stir on the last item. All the flesh eaters protested. Mr. Elephant roared and trumpeted. He said: " I propose an amendment to item No. 2. I propose that the names of Messrs. Lion, Kangaroo, Rhinocerous and Swan be added to the list of the Executive."

Lion: " I accept the amendment moved by my friend. As for the question of meat eating I request we defer the discussion to a later date."

Cow (shaking violently her horns:) " No, it will be decided now and just here."

Lion: " Why are you so perturbed, Madame? When you show solidarity amongst yourselves, aid and support one another and stand squarely together by your kind in time of adversity and danger I know to my bitter taste what lessons you teach us. I have not yet forgotten that particular day when I attacked a

herd of yours and you all formed a ring facing me, after putting the young calves and the shepherd inside the big ring. And after that, pointing your horn-tips towards me, you remained in a charging position with your missiles upright. I say, you were very menacing at that time. Who can win against such a solidarity! I got tired and exhausted to my last nerve after four hours of tug-of-war. This is what happened then.

" But then I once more assert and emphasise on behalf of all the flesh eaters that we shall turn vegetarians and live a simple life."

Applause.

The entire Omnibus Resolution was passed unanimously without a single dissentient voice.

The Conference adjourned. The President thanked all and all thanked the Chair.



SECOND DAY SESSION

The second day's session of the Animal Conference began at the scheduled hour under the able Chairmanship of Miss Fox.

Mr. Elephant got up, with his huge bulk and profile silhouting the sky-line. Quite majestically, with a noble gait, he walked to the soft side of the Chair, lifted his trunk, trumpeted and addressed :—

"Miss President, brothers and sisters, I solemnly beg to put before you my thoughts which have emanated from the best of motives for the common good and benefit of the animal world.

"I propose that we should now prepare ourselves with caution and pride (smiling) ofcourse man has paucity of caution and has got ample of empty pride. We should then put into action the resolution we have passed yesterday. We should determine our programme according to the conduct which we have chalked out for ourselves in our deliberations. It is no use getting hasty or going on dilating on old soddy values, and that is why I am suggesting some practical steps for future and for the future of our coming generations who will be more free and more prodigious in determining their course and their actions based on prudence and justice. We are, as a matter of fact, under the dread of this monster other-wise known as human being. This human will be no more in existence when our new generations come into life. May it happen so in immediate near future! To come to the point at issue and stake I have the honour to humbly put that we should now split up our bands into sections; you may call them councils, if you like. These sections or councils should call separate sectional conferences. Let there be divisions on the basis of earth, under-earth, water and air. This will give opportunity to all the animals to meet and have free discussions on the Omnibus Resolution we have passed just yesterday in our session. There might arise new and beneficial questions in these conferences which might lead to improve the decisions of our mammoth or monolithic conference. There are none, and I hope there can be no two opinions on my suggestion.

"I hope every body agrees with my tiny humble-self. (Laughter).

"May I request you, Miss President, to take the consensus of opinion of the House on the particular problem? My poor suggestion might be acceptable to the delegates and representatives of those far flung domains who have not been so lucky as to get represented in vast numbers as we the earth and under-earth species have been."

Voices from all sides: "Accepted. We all agree on this sound proposal. Nobody is against it."

President: "Brothers and sisters, no body seems to be opposed to the suggestion of Mr. Elephant. I declare the suggestion accepted. I have to add only one word and that is either we split ourselves into small committees or do according to the original proposal, and thus meet in separate or sectional conferences."

Elephant: "I think the last remark of the President and her emphasis on these conferences seems to be very akin to man's provincial conferences. Although we do not copy him in any sphere but there is no harm in taking anything sensible and good if there be any in man. I want elucidation."

President: "Yes, Mr. Elephant, I do mean this. They meet in provinces and we meet in sections or councils. This is the only difference between man and ourselves. We do not copy him, we set an example. We hold, as you have proposed and emphasised in your opening speech, water, air, earth and under-earth conferences, thus giving chance to all. It is desirable that before proceeding any further with the Animal Conference we should give chance to the categories or species for sending in their opinions for consideration before the next session. This is vital. We are democratic, and democracy, as you are all aware, means delay; and in the delay there lie the good and sweet fruits of our joint labour. Hasty elections, hasty decisions spoil the game. We do not want to hurry up. We follow India under the British Raj."

Lion: 'You are absolutely to the point, Miss President. You are correct in my opinion. In the alternative there is a possibility

of grumbling on the part of far flung animals. Our democratic way forbids any flaws in our Constitution and dealings. We have no caucuses or under-hand dealings of human diplomacy. No body will say now that the Conference was held in haste and that we were not fully represented, and that willy nilly we sent the hurriedly elected delegates without mandates or instructions. Instructions, in modern times, are a vital element in organisation. Nazis and Fascists failed because of lack of instructions to their rank and file in the lines and to their divisions and battalions on the fronts. We avoid risks."

President: "I fully agree and grasp the wise words contained in the speeches of Mr. Elephant and your good-self. I, therefore, adjourn the Conference 'sine die.'

Cat and Dog: "Comrade President, before you disperse the Conference, please, let us have some music, we mean to say a nice chorus."

Humble suggestion of Miss Pussy and Mr. Dog having been accepted, all sang in a chorus: Lion's roar intermingling with the sweet melodies of Nightangle and Cuckoo.

The Conference concluded and the delegates departed to their respective homes.



WATER-ANIMAL CONFERENCE

According to the decisions of the Animal Conference, mentioned in the preceding pages, a Fish and Fowl Conference was convened at the Mouth of the Irrawaddy River in Burma. All kinds of fishes and water-fowls assembled there.

Swan strutted a few steps inside the panorama, made by the circle of delegates in the river, flanked by high hills and dales. She said : " Brothers and sisters, I propose the name of Star-fish to the Chair. I hope there is no objection to this harmless proposal of mine."

Salmon : " I support and second the proposal."

Star-fish : " While thanking you both I propose the name of Mr. Crocodile, as it is a question of a very brainy job to preside. You all know that in Water-world none is so well known for wisdom and renowned for tactfulness as my friend, Mr. Crocodile."

Cuttle-fish : " While not fully challenging you in any way I beg to put this very humbly : The wisdom and prudence of my friend is a questionable problem. If the monkey episode was not before us we would have accepted—and quite readily—the proposal of Miss Star fish."

Duck : " What exacly you mean by monkey-episode, dame? We have, of course, never heard of such a thing."

" Simple," said the saintly Salmon : " A monkey was indiscreet enough to jump on the back of our friend when he was in the midstream. The monkey wanted to have a free ride to the other side of the river. And our friend Mr. Crocodile was simple enough or say knave enough to this degree as to ask the monkey that he needed his liver for medicinal purposes. And the clever monkey said : ' Well my friend, why did not you tell me there when I was on the tree ? I can never keep my liver with me. It is up on the tree, and it is just a paltry favour you are asking for. Please, take me back there and I shall fetch the

same for you from the tree.' And our wise friend took the monkey back to the tree, and the cunning baboon then grinned and said spitefully : 'Simple folk you may be good enough to go your way. Thank you for the free ride you have given me.' And our friend did nothing on this but shed tears to call the monkey back. But. . ."

Cuttle-fish : "Beg your pardon. I beg to suggest the name of Mr. Shark for the Chair. I can gainsay that if cleverness is required none can excel him in this art and trait. The entire sea-surface is reverbrating with the marvellous feats of Mr. Shark. You all know it, I imagine. None is so blind as not to see the truth. I think it is a sound proposal."

Crocodile (though offended, yet to keep up face) said : "I second the clear proposition, I mean, the idea is clear. And I withdraw my name."

All fishes : "We all agree and request that the Conference should not be delayed now any more."

Mr. Shark opened his big wide jaws, wagged sluggishly his heavy, cumbersome and massive tail and took up the job quite in right earnest. He addressed :— "While thanking you for the honour thus conferred on me, I have to put. that you have netted me in well, but then before public opinion I have to bow down in obedience. I entreat that the resolutions passed in the Animal Conference and the gist of the proceedings be promptly given to us by th se who participated there on our behalf. Miss Swan, please come, since you have taken a very prominent part in that Conference and are on the Executive, I understand."

Miss Swan proceeded by the side of tho President and opening her sweet looking beak chirped : she gave out full details of the Conference, and all heard her with rapt attention. All marvelled at the discovery of the fabulous, marvellingly miraculous spring, the life-water of which, when burnt, produced vapours and gasses which were mortally fatal to all human weapons of destruction—lethal and scientific. All discoveries of men had paled down before this new animal find.

"How should I put it before you? What terrible knocks have we not taken with the German U Boats during the last war in the interests of the so called human Democracies of America and Great Britain. We fought against human dangers to save human beings only on planetarian basis. I mean to say that they are also the inhabitants of the same Planet as ourselves. This prompted us, but what prompts him to murder us in season and out of it? Man sees and feels that there are monsters in the seas; he is afraid of them, but do our seas contain greater monsters than these small fries of earth--the human beings. How small and how very devilish is man! He has never used his radio or press in the praise of our humbleselves even if we have rendered him valuable services.?

"I crave your permission to narrate an episode of great sea calamity. A short while ago, whales of my caste committed mass suicide. Before doing so they used to say: 'Man neither likes to live nor allows any other living being to live peacefully. He is a death-dealing animal; he daily experiments with death.' They used to emphasise this too much—and nothing is too much as a matter of fact—on the great tragedy off Bikini. They had witnessed the death-pangs and the agonies of the fishes which died as a result of that great inhuman experiment. This, they reiterated to cover up their determination of committing suicide. On any advice to the contrary their prompt reply used to come: 'Look, please, man experiments within our spheres with poisonous gasses, atomic weapons, electronic and non-electronic death-dealing elements, Life is uncertain in this world. Death is more painful through his agencies than the suicide we contemplate. Then why suffer?'

"With this painful resolve they approached the sea-shore Men drove them back thinking they were going to invade his habitations. But, then, when there was none to perceive and interfere with the whales in their act, they again went back to the sea-shore, and the result was mass suicide. You have heard of it, my dear brothers and sisters! How painful is the story?"

"What about the mass snake suicide in Ballia in U. P.?"

"Yes, the same painful story again."

"Shame! Shame!" Was the cry from all directions of the audience, and the sea stirred with indignation at this. It rose and fell as if in commemoration of the valiant dead.

Whale: "I have said more than was necessary and I want to waste no time any more, since there is a lot to be done. I have no intention to give out or spin stories, although I know many a ones—blood-curdling and full of anguish. All these emanate from human tyrannies. I resume my seat, with your permission, Comrade President."

Black Eel, " They called me Black Eel and many have nick-named me Black Eelie. The occupation of my forefathers was swimming. And we do not give up swimming even after being netted and cast on the ground. We are hardy.

" Even after being thrown into the basket we jump out of it. We are restless, and by habit, imagining earth to be water, we try to swim, I mean to say that we writhe violently."

" So you are hard-hearted," interrupted Rahu slyly.

"People call us so," continued Black Eel, " Many people think that even after being cut into slices and cast into the frying pan we have got life.

So often our pieces jump out of the boiling oil of the cauldron, they bolt off the hot frying pan.'

"So you continue swimming then too, is it?" coaxed cynically the saintly Salmon.

"Wrong, absolutely wrong." was the emphatic denial by the Black Eel, "Out from the water we writhe and throb in memory of water. We are absolutely lifeless after being cut into slices. What people consider life in us, then, is, as a matter of fact, atomic energy in us which does not allow us to remain motionless. We contain more constituents of hydrogen and less of the atoms. You are aware perhaps that Hydrogen Bomb is several thousand times more effective and dangerous than the Atomic one. Oh! How should I make you understand," put in the Black Eel," that

we contain very much of hydrogen in us. Man has no time and leisure from eating and cooking us that he should analyse us chemically in his Scientific Research Laboratories and draw in some wholesome results from such a test. The question with him is mainly of stomach."

Pomfret put it humourously, "So the blackies have got more merits?"

"By your head! May be my colour is black, but I possess, surely, many more qualities than any one can boast of", cut in Black Eel dryly, in wrath. She drew a long sad sigh and added, "If the striking power of hydrogen can be challenged by anything then it is the powder of my bones and the thin slender ribs of mine." I am not revealing anything here by which man can benefit or perchance draw useful conclusions, but on the contrary I am stressing on something else.

"Though my home waters are in the Indian Ocean in which this IRRAWADY Mouth is also included and where our Conference is taking place, but in a particular season we go to the English waters also, say in June and July, in immense numbers. Why incidentally the reference to England has propped up you will say? The reason is simple: The inhabitants of those Isles are very much in fear of the gloomy prospects of the use of the Hydrogen and Atomic Bombs.

"Science experts are also striking terror in the hearts of those people. The main cause of terror is alleged to be the intense desire and intention of the PENTAGON to transform the whole of the British Isles into an atomic base for their designs, and to persuade the entire population of Britain to shift to some country of the Commonwealth.

"You might be remembering that on the 1st day of the Animal Conference we had references to the predicitions of an Australian Radar expert about Britain being unsafe during an Atomic War. Now, another expert is also reiterating the same theme. And owing to this a sort of panic is gripping the British Isles.

" My main purpose in referring to Britain is this that the Lion had mentioned on the first day that the entire British Isles will be empty soon and would fall into the hands of the animals.

"According to my information there is another danger facing Britain, And that is, the continent of ATLANTIS is going to re-appear again and its vacuum in the Ocean is going to be filled up by the British Isles and its adjoining lands. This is the opinion of the famous and very eminent Science scholars. I, of course, sympathise with the people of those lands.

" I would have abided by all your decisions but have to emphasise that the British Isles now cannot be given over to any other animals. They will form the property of the water animals.

" There are two opinions: One is that as soon as the atomic warfare starts the sea will rise up to stupendous heights and swallow up many lands. Or 'the roots' of British Isles have become so loose that they would not be able to bear the impounds of the atomic poundings, and thus those beautiful Isles would go under water. Those sites left by the disappearance of these Isles should be handed over to us, the Black Eels. You will all, of course, say what special qualifications have we got to claim, and not the other water animals."

"Yes, correct, we all ask you this question," cried the other fishes in chorus.

Shark (president), "Order! Order! Let the Black Eel continue. Proceed on please."

"Yes, the elite, please listen to my folded hand supplications," put in the Black Eel with a suppressed smile. "The reason in simple words is this, Sir; In British Isles lies buried the wealth produced by the sweat and blood of the black and coloured peoples. The blood and sweat of the Indians and Africans has flowed in streams for the fattening of the imperialists and capitalists, of that land. Therefore, only the coloured and the dark peoples are the owners of that beautiful land which will thus fall to our lot. We claim it rightfully and entirely."

Eel: "My name is Eel. The Bombayities call me 'Bomal' by contempt. But this is besides the point. I have to say nothing here particularly personal. It is a matter of common concern which I have to broach: I go very deep into the fathomless depths of the seas, and what things I have seen there, excuse me, not many can do because of their bulk and because of their lack of retention of breath below a normal point. Their respiration does not allow them to go beyond a certain degree below. Please, excuse me, Mr. President, I mean no affront to you, but you have also not been so deep as that. What I saw there was splendid. I have seen lofty buildings in the bottom of the sea, big cities and what not. I was amazed—rather flabbergasted.

"My ancestors used to say that just as the man of today is engaged in scientific experiments and discoveries, of Atom and H-Bombs and dangerous death-dealing weapons, so, in the words of PLATO, man was engaged in 'Satanic deeds.' He was bent upon in hunting out the secrets of making gold out of base metal. In the words of the Orientals themselves, he was busy with the search for "Paras-pathhar,* the touch of which was endowed with turning every metal into gold. Then there was another craze with which man was experimenting. It was the secret of walking on waters, on monstrous waves and rivers, on ponds and lakes.

"He succeeded in certain inventions but the result was disastrous and it went against his expectations. You know then the result of frustration of one's dreams. It is said the sea-water boiled up and rose to stupendous mountainous heights of unprecedented account. It covered the whole of the Continent of ATLANTIS in its waves. It engulfed it the whole. Today that Continent is no more as a result of that stupid inhuman experi-

* Paras Pathhar literally speaking means Persian stone. It is supposed to be a fabulous stone the slight touch of which turns base metal into gold. This craze is still rampant in some parts of the Orient The backward people of the Indian and Persian villages still believe in the existence of this particular magical stone. Strange, but true, they shoe their goats with iron just like people do their horses. All this for the simple purpose to locate the magical Paras Pathhar. The modern education is eradicating the belief amongst the educated people about such a stupid thing but the rustic still persist in their belief.

ment. That Continent is under water now. This was the price of stupid human calculations. Was it not sad ?

"I desire to refresh your memory that ATLANTIS was also in the Atlantic Ocean and the nations experimenting with Atom and H-Bombs are also inhabiting the Atlantic Coast—some East and some West."

As soon as Miss Eel stopped speaking there was a tremendous applause.

President: "We have been all gratified with the valuable information which Miss Eel and some of the other speakers have given before the House. We are not fully conversant, with the dangers of Atom or H-Bomb, but it is not a matter in our control or within our reach to spread this secret so much as to make it useless, and nothing is useless to man. The more he learns the more does he use it against his own kith and kin. He is suffering from a sort of consumption or you may call it a pure sadism. This fever grows intense with multiplication of weapons. It is the War Fever. The more one has got the more one is vociferous. Look at the once silent USA, today. How she is making a mighty show of her prowess and weapons. In my opinion if Atom or H-Bomb becomes an open secret then the peasants in the fields over land division and water rights and the workers in factories, as also the clerks in offices, will hurl these bombs at one another and the employers and landlords will be simply snugly sitting in their cosy villas enjoying the news over a cup or glass of cock-tail or cognac. But I admit, opinions differ. If there are others who disagree with me they have the floor to express themselves freely. But let me emphasise that no other animals except birds, besides, are in constant danger because of these Atom and H-Bombs. Birds have mastered one danger and that is the art of pushing down aeroplanes from the skies with the aid of some devices which will be a matter of common knowledge soon, as I learnt this confidentially.

Sardine: "I am inhabitant of Black Sea and I earnestly entreat that we steal the great secrets and give them away to the

Soviet Union to make it impossible for others to use this secret of Atom and H-Bombs."

"Miss Sardine" replied the President' "You have not heard me in full, I think. I do say and did emphasise that no good will be served by this generalisation of the Atom & H-Bomb or any other secret in quite the same way as other secrets used during the wars becoming general did not prevent war. Do you catch this? Miss Sardine, I am sure, I wish to assure you that your Soviet Union have got in their arsenal more deadly weapons than the Atom or H-Bomb, but then the Soviet Union had not taken the initiative in the production of the dangerous, nuclear weapons as we underatand, and that is why none of us has spoken against her. I am now revealing to you something strange and I can vouchsafe my claim that none knew it before me otherwise this secret would long have been used. I mean to say that there are such minerals in the mines of sea mountains where even Eel has not been able to go or penetrate, since these are the abodes of sea-pythons and sea-monsters. I can go there since it is a question of fighting for one's rights. The sea-pythons are represented here and so are the sea-monsters; these gentlemen are the only few now left over to us by the all powerful cruel devouring evolutionary process of time. But none of these gentlemen knows what they possess in their sea caves. I stop here if any one would like to challenge my statement. . . . . .As there is not a single voice raised I continue and beg to say that these minerals are conducive to supplying us with those deadly vapours and gasses which are anti-H., anti-Atom Bomb and anti any human weapon. . We can make the seas proof against torpedoes, human produced gasses, atomic and electronic weapons; we can make the sea immune for all in all the ways. We can freeze the seas with the aid of these minerals and chemicals. We have already experimented with these. If agreed, I propose that we should freeze oceans beyond a certain depth of, say, fifty or sixty feet. We can make the remaining depth below impossible for human craft to penetrate. If it is required we may freeze them totally; with of course some air fissures for our use here and there. Withal, there is one difficulty and that is to our

water fowls who live in waters, fly in the skies and roam about on lands, wherever they like. Their difficulties will be somewhat aggravated in that case."

Swan: "On behalf of water-fowls who can fly, I beg to submit that we shall in that case fly away to sanctuaries in the lowlands of Nepal where we have got full control and which we are going to make safe by the life-water of that miraculous, fabulous Spring in the downs of the Himalayas. But if we consent to decide to the contrary in the matter, i.e., if you decide to freeze below some points then we can of course live safely in the oceans and seas. There will then be no necessity, at all, for us to quit waters."

Voices; "If the last procedure i.e., freezing below sixty feet is adopted it will be acceptable and agreeable to all of us, we presume."

At this there was a humorous remark by the pearl-fish: "After all now I will be troubled no more by the greedy man for pearls."

Sea-Lizard: "Please, don't interrupt, serious talk is going on."

Swan: "If this latter proposal is agreed upon, then birds of my clan needs leave seas no more. This much depth is acceptable to all: Is it agreed then?"

Salmon: "Honourable Swan......" She was interrupted by the Sea-lizard who retorted: "No Honourable Sir, please, address as Mister or even Comrade. We are not afraid of the latter prefix as we are not American Capitalists."

Salmon: "Please be serious, I accept your objection to this obnoxious prefix of Honourable Sir." Laughter. "To resume: I may say that fifty to sixty feet of depth you want to leave perhaps for man for fishing purposes or for his cruising expeditions. If you know the sea then you know that this much space is sufficient for human ships to commit all the felonies. This is not acceptable to me and to others of my kind."

Sardine, Herring, Eel and others: "Yes here is a point. We join Miss Salmon in this protest."

Swan: "Is it the opinion of the House that we should deny all access to man in the seas and oceans as also rivers and lakes and create all-round Dead Seas?"

Some voices: "Sure. We want this and that is but fair."

President: "If this is the general opinion of the House, then, please, move it in a resolution form."

Salmon: "I move it like this:—

"Adopted that this Conference of Fowls and Fishes unanimously passes that we make the oceans and all waters safe by the use of the minerals and chemicals, vapours and gasses, and freeze them so that no human beings ever touch these places hereafter. We further leave big ponds in the middle of the oceans and seas, lakes and rivers where sea-fowls can live in safety and fishes breathe when they desire.

"Adopted further that only the upper layer of the waters be frozen in such an unbreakable way that no human efforts can remove this crust and master the 'Blockade.'

"This, Comrade President, will safeguard the sea-fowls as well as allow us to take air-breath whenever we like as we can also create innumerable fissures for use. I think the position is clear and simplified."

President: "Before taking votes I want the resolution seconded and supported."

Sardine & Herring: "We are supporting it. I mean to say (Sardine emphasised) in the constitutional language, we second the resolution."

Eel: "With your permission, please, President, I want to put the resolution in an amended and more cognisable form: I put it like this:—

"This Conference adopts unanimously that all waters of seas, oceans, rivers, ponds, lakes and springs be made safe by the vapours and steams of those minerals and chemicals which are embedded in the bottom of seas, and that we stop hereafter all access to man in or on waters."

Miss Salmon: "I accept the amendment if the mover accepts my remarks with which I have concluded my resolution. Those remarks while incorporating all the data simplify the position of the fowls of our seas."

Eel; "There is nothing controversial as to that. I accept and support every word of my friend and all her premises and also those of the seconders, their intentions and wishes too. Please, have no misunderstanding."

The President cast a glance all round and saw all trunks of fishes and necks of fowls moving in un'son in assent—supporting the resolution as if. He declared the resolution passed after his surveying glance in all directions. The President added: "I find quite an overhelming majority for the resolution and I am glad to declare it passed.

"I now request Miss Swan to convey our resolution to the next Animal Conference session for ratification......I close the session with thanks to you all for the kindly co-operation."

Crocodile: "With your permission, Comrade President, I move a vote of thanks to the Chair for efficiently conducting the deliberations.

Every one: "Accepted. We all congratulate the Chair and thank."

The meeting was over, the Conference thus concluded. The President announced the closure and all the delegates from far off regions went back to their respective homes. All were pleased with the results and departed singing in chorus.



BIRD CONFERENCE

The decisions of the Animal Conference held at the foot of the Himalayas, in the lowlands of Nepal, by the side of a big lake, were seriously taken up by all the animals of the earth and air. We have just described the Fowl & Fish Conference, or better termed as Water-Animal Conference.

The birds selected a most congenial site for the occasion and in grand Moghul style and fashion selected what was best in Europe of the bourgeois world for holding their auspicious deliberations. By the banks of Neu Chattel Lake, in the lovely valley of Switzerland, all the birds assembled; we mean the cream of the bird-world flocked there. It was quite a representative gathering: There came Patridge, Wax-Wing, Quail, Chakore, Crow, Kite, Vulture, Goose, Owl, Nightangle, Swallow, Magpie, Parrot and a lot of other varieties of the air animals.

The resolutions passed in the first Conference came up for scrutiny and discussions. New proposals sprang up; were thrashed and passed. Swan, who was the most prominent of the delegates, having been present in the previous two Conference, played the most conspicuous part.

Swan looked around the sea of audience, opened her soft beautiful beak in a yawning posture and addressed in these words:—

" Fellow delegates, brothers and sisters, the bearers of message from far and wide, I greet you in the name of our first Conference and greet you on behalf of the water-animal world. I suggest that we should move constitutionally and elect a President for the august occasion, please suggest. This is necessary for our success."

Crow: " I humbly suggest the name of Chakore. As you know that her knowledge about skies is vast. In quest of Moon, to reach that beautiful luminous island in the space, Chakore goes up higher than any one else. This is a matter of common knowledge that our friend is regarded in the human world as the lover of Moon."

Pigeon: " I support the proposal, I mean to say that I second it whole-heartedly. I gladly testify to what Mr. Crow has said about our friend's quest and love about the Moon."

Vulture: " I think none has gone higher up in the ethereal heights than Mr. Pigeon. I suggest the name of Mr. Pigeon to the Chair."

Falcon: " I second the proposal, since I know to my bitter taste how cleverly has the gentleman tired me in the ethereal depths. I recognise the supremacy of Mr. Pigeon on the ether."

Kite: " Brothers and sisters, if we want to make our Conference a full-fledged success then we should wait a bit till the night-birds like Owl, Bat, Swallow etc., come and take part in it. It will be better to wait a bit more."

Goose: " The question of day and night does not arise. It would have arisen if the Conference were not taking place near the very mouth of the cave where there is ample dark and where live Mr. Owl and his ilk. I think they must all be on their way."

At this moment there came the sound of hooting, of hilarious exultant sounds, mass laughter; and all the eyes were turned towards that direction. They saw the Owl leading the Swallow and a host of other birds in a procession out of the dark cave. Coming near and settling down, Mr. Owl pulled up his rubber-like neck, jerked it and bowing cynically again lifted back, conveying the sense of salutations.

After greeting the Conference, Mr. Owl said:-

"Gentlemen and Comrades, we were just thinking whether the unworthies like us would be remembered by you, as the notice was not clear about the attendance of this auspicious meeting. Yet, then, after all we have taken this audacious step and here we are."

Patridge: " Good that you have been good enough to take this sagacious step. The notice was clear but still we thank you for your coming and giving us the pleasure of your kind company."

Swallow: " The English saying is complete that none is wiser than Owl. He is a bird of wisdom, this Owl. I propose the name of Mr. Owl to the Chair. I hope my suggestion will find response."

Bat: " Sure, sure! Although I am taken for a mammal by man yet I have more rights in bird world. I, therefore, second the proposal of our friend, Miss Swallow."

Owl, raising his spring-like neck, twinkling his round eyes and waving his beard a bit, surveyed the audience and remarked:–

"Oon Hoon, No, no, this previlege goes to the 'Chakore*, so that we may be able to hear of the mysteries of the skies, and those too in an authentic manner."

Some voices: " Why delay, please, let us take up this suggestion of Mr. Owl in right earnest and elect Miss Chakore to guide us in the Conference."

Kite: "Miss President, while congratulating you on your being unanimously elected I request you to be good enough to give us your observations of the ethereal heights and mysteries of the universe where none else can reach."

President: " I thank comrade delegates for the honour they have conferred on my humbleself. I have to speak too much on human revenge, Atom Bomb, H-Bomb and man's designs. However, I shall have the last say and, therefore, I throw the Conference open to the delegates to express their opinions."

Falcon, unfolding his massive wings : " Comrade President and all the delegates, I beg to forcefully put that human being by himself is the reservoir of Atom Bomb. Whatever is stuffed in his skull is all Satanic mischief. His skull is the treasure of destruction. He destroys himself and everything which is around him. I mean, his brain is what you might call a switch-board of desolation and destruction. What else should I say more ! "

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* There is a widely accepted legend that Red-legged Patridge, better known by its name as 'CHAKORE' in Indo-Pak language is a lover of Moon and it goes mad in moonlights and flies higher and higher in the skies till exhausted drops dead.

Vulture: "Sorry, I differ. I have opened every cell of his skull and brain and I have not come across that treasure, that miserable reservoir."

Owl (ridiculing and putting a bit of humour in his remarks): "You gentleman open his skull and examine his brain only for the sake of taste or stomach filling, but I have peeped deeper into the real condition of his brain. It is worth mentioning. Please listen attentively. The only difference between man and myself is, so far as depradations is concerned, that he works 24 hours on it while I concentrate only in the night. In the mission of desolation* we are one, the only question is of putting in less labour and more time. I pass my day in thinking and night in working. But man has no time for thinking, he works on pre-planned theories which all guide him in destruction. This is the difference, you see, Gentlemen and Madams."

Kite: "You mean to say that what caprices of man you see during your night 'duties' you use in competing with him, and plan according to your observations and experiences."

Owl: "Sister, I have so much more to say."

Vulture interrupted Mr. Owl and said:

"Mr. Owl should address the Chair instead of Miss Kite, his sister."

Owl: "I beg your pardon and thank Mr. Vulture for the sound advice he has given to me. I want to re-state that so far as the mission of destruction, depradations and ruins is concerned I yield palm to none. I am several steps ahead of man in this race. But there is one question which always troubles me whenever I begin my work. I am reminded of my fellow animals whose life and death is dependent on man's life and death.** When I think of them and their plight, if man disap-

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* In the Eastern concept Owl is taken as the emblem of destruction He is considered ominous and when people hear the hooting they conclude that some calamity is overtaking some one amidst them. With things changing now there is less regard paid to this superstition. Nevertheless the superstition is very strong that nothing can convince a Persian or Indian against this belief that Owl represents depredations.

** Vulture feeds on dead.

pears, I shudder at the idea of further ravages. To elaborate my point: It is like this :—

"The life of crows and other animals like dogs and cats etc., depends on man's existence and the life of vulture depends on his death. That is my point."

Kite: "Can Comrade Owl cite any solid, candid example to illustrate his assertion and claim, fully, that he excels man in destruction ?"

Vulture: "What a question ? Are people so simple as that? What is Miss Kite showing, sheer simplicity and ignorance? Who does not know the destructive propensities of Mr. Owl ?"

President: "Order, Order! Let Mr. Owl go on with his ravages."

Owl: "Miss President, with your premission I want to quote a few couplets from man made verses," while expressing this Mr. Owl raised his springy neck a bit aloft, gave a circular motion and glance to his round eye balls, loosely placed in his sockets, and looked with sneer and pride at Miss Kite. The gesture was so apparent and slighting that all marked it clearly and there was an outburst and a loud peal of laughter from all sides.

President: "Yes you are allowed, Mr. Owl. But please, be brief."

Owl: "Gentlemen and comrades, Ia m narrating to you an event of the third or fourth quarter of 1921. It was at this time that a Teheran newspaper "KHALQ" (PEOPLE) gave prominence to a poem in its weekly issue on the first page, with my picture perched on a twig the following was written underneath :—

Aye Zard Chashm-o-Goonde Sar
(O, yellow eyed and thick burly headed)
Kotah Dum Amboh Par,
(Short tailed and massive winged).
Veeranai Tu Khuahi Agar,
(If thou desirest ruins),

Az Khak-i-Teheran Dar Guzar ;
(Get out of the soil of Teheran);
Par Bar Sar-i-Alburz, cheen,
(Spread thy wings on the peaks of Elburz mountains)
Iran Nigar Veeran Ba Been."
(See Iran and find desolate)."

Every one began to applaud. Every one was praising aloud: "What a beautiful recital !"

President: "I think the verse must be very long one. So much is quite sufficient for the purpose. It goes to prove your excellence over man in the art of destruction as the verse comes out of man's own defeatist gesture. It proves your claim that you excel man in the mission of desolation."

Owl: "Yes it is a long one, Comrade President, yet if you permit I may just quote the last stanza to make the first portion understandable.

President: Please go on, be quick the audience is getting restive."

Owl: "It runs like this :—

Sadha Yateem-o-La Makan
(Hundreds of orphans and homeless)
Aanan Ke And Be Khaniman,
(Those who have no homes of their own),
Dar Kunj Har Veeran Dookan ;
(In the corners of every desolate shop);
Beeni ham Agosh-i-Sagan.
(You will find them by the side of dogs).
Aan-ast Choonan. Ienast Chuneen,
(That is like that, this is like this)
Iran Nigar Veeran Ba Been.
(See Iran and find desolate)

Bat: "The purport of the latest stanza cannot be clear without these few couplets :—

Yak mumleket Veeran Shudeh,
(A kingdom has been devastated)

Teheran Abadan Shudeh,
(Teheran has become prosperous)
Yak Millat-i-Uriyan Shudeh,
(One nation has become naked)
Yak Chand Tan Aayan Shudeh.
(A small number of people have become rich and noble);
Az Dast Ranj-i Aan-O-Ien.
(By the grievous hand of this and that)
Iran Nigar Veeran Ba Been.
(See Iran and find desolate)

Owl: "No, Comrade President, the purport is still dubious. It will become boring if I say anything more, yet have to clear a mis-statement.

"My last stanza points to the one which I beg to say begins thus:—

Yak Shah Manzil Sakhte,
(Shah has constructed a palace),
and ends with:—
Aan Park Tanha Ba Mabeen
(Do not look at that park alone)
Iran Nigar Veeran Ba Been.
(See Iran and find desolate).
and so on and so forth.

Nightangle: "Comrade President, perhaps you know that I also know music and am conversant with many a songs. But this is no time for that. Singing and verse-building is a task for the lazy, I beg your pardon, of all those who have got ample leisure. There are many here in the audience who excel in these propensities. Let us come to things of better use. Let us come to earth and suggest something relevant. This is my suggestion."

Owl: "Miss President, I have got to say this much in self-defence and to vindicate my position that man always throws onus of his misdeeds on others. Though I can bring about greater devastation and ruin than the Atom or H-Bomb and

other destructive devices but I shudder at the very idea of depriving so many of the animals of their means of livelihood—at least to some. I feel for the Crow, Kite, Vulture, Dog, Cat and Mouse. Their life and death, as I have asserted before, are dependent on the life and death of man. You see my point, please, I am always brief, that is my second nature."

Magpie: "Please, Comrade President, excuse me for the presumption but nothing is hidden from me and from Mr. Parrot about the workings of man. The only question is that Mr. Parrot forgets everything and, as for my humble-self, I have to remember everything and I live on memory, as a matter of fact.'.

President: "This is not a question of living on memory. The question here is about Atom and H-Bombs and defence against that scourge."

Parrot, fluttering his wings and opening his oblique beak: "Mian Mithhoo, Speak out, Munna, Polly,..............., My dear. H-& Atom Bomb! Oh that stuff! It is all the idea embedded and contained in the dust and refuse of my cage......And as for Mr. Owl, who does not know that he is acknowledged the Nightangle of thousand tales,* sweet tongued and melodious in expression beyond description or mention; who can compete with him in that fine art?"

Cock: "Kookroon Koon! "What might I say, how I describe!

"From the time my wings have become useless I have been thrown at the mercy of man. I see everything that he does—living as I do in his company. Man is busy, day and night, in the production of weapons of destruction of wreck and ruin. He daily invents something or other in this direction. Please, cast a glance at these papers which I had concealed in my roost," opening up the papers, Mr. Cock continued:—

"One USA gentleman-at-large by the name of Mr. Malgan has a flight of imagination. He has reached the skies and open-spaces in his mental flights. He has laid claim to all the open

*Bulbul hazar dastan in Persian.

spaces in the Universe not occupied by stars. He has named this ethereal Sphere as 'CELESTIA.' He claims to be the sole inheritor and proprietor of this Sphere. He has asserted that from now on man will live in space and his dead won't any longer be buried but treated with some phosphorescent substances, making them shine as stars and heavenly bodies. They will be luminous projectiles ever-hanging in the sky."

Eagle: "I add something more to this information. Man has, in his crooked nature, invented means for melting or smelting the stars, because these small meteors and stars would obstruct the human space-ships in their flight (from planet to planet) and, thus, he is conveniently doing away with them. Thus is he ruining the Universe. I say, let us be alert !"

Nightangle: "Oh God! What is that smelting business! Man is doing much more than this, but what are we doing to his delivery?"

Owl: "I am the embodiment of evil ! Whatever bad is there in the universe it is all in me because I impart knowledge, and knowled[illegible] boring to you.

"Si[illegible], I am a denizen of Elburz Mountains in Iran. I have just recently observed some thing there which knowledge will be astounding to you. Please listen:—

"Every fourth day in Teheran every house goes without electric light. Or in other words I should put that Teheran is undergoing an electric rationing period. A good portion of the town is thus thr[illegible] into darkness by turns every fourth day or so. The public has [illegible] given to understand that there is some thing wrong with the Electric Plant, that the machines have become rusty and old and that they require repairs. But this is a lie. The matter is like this: I have seen some Englishmen and Americans engaged in underground constructions under the mountains, a little away from the Shimran-Teheran Road. They are experimenting with atomic producti[illegible]s. All the electricity thus cut off from the city supply is consumed there. This is the main secret; as many volts of electricity as required for the purpose are cut out from public

supply and consumed there. A good portion of the town is thus cast into darkness. This is going on for the last three months or so. That lustrous gay Teheran by seeing which my eyes dazzled and pained, is today a desolote place in many points during the nights; and what is true of Teheran is true of many places in the East and West."

Hawk: "O! I grasp it now. I have seen some men working there during the day time. They are engaged in digging and in some constructions in those Shimran lowlands. The workmen look like armymen. May be civilians and workers are not trusted in these matters. Comrade Owl is quite correct about electricity. I have also seen electric poles in the jungle suddenly disappearing down in the depths. It is clear now where they have gone to. The electricity has gone under-ground that it may feed under-gronnd Laboratories and Works. That is the only and honest conclusion. What else can be the suggestions ?

President, getting wroth: "I do not quite understand the mentality of our people. I do find a dearth of wisdom and intellect in the birds, which faculties are astoundingly much inferior to those of the other animals on earth or in other spheres. I want to make it clear that we are not concerned with anything else than the main remedy. We are not hungering for information. What we want is the defence against the oncoming onslaught of the Atom and H-Bombs. This atomic war will spare us neither on earth nor in the air, and much less in the waters. I know that some of us have knocked down thousands of aeroplanes on earth by the aid of our sundry powders which we had sprayed on the clouds. Man has not been able to diagnose the real causes of these air accidents. He finds faults with his machines and often is heard saying that clouds have become Radio-active. This is our revenge, and he is not aware of it yet. We have absolutely and wholly blurred his vision, wisdom and intellect, of which he had already a paucity.

"You know perhaps that in the valleys of the Hindu-Kush Mountains in Afghanistan there is a kind of herbal plant which man calls, by contempt, "SHAKH-I-IBLIS (Satan's Branch). He

has forgotten its merits and qualities, since man, when he despises and hates something, then he does not bother about the merits or demerits of that particular object. When he blindly boycotts a thing, he forgets and ignores its use-value. The Satan's Branch is a strange devilry. This plant produces a sort of gum which when it enters the beaks of my category, automatically, becomes a dry powder. We carry it to the skies and puff it off on the clouds to see the aeroplanes falling and crashing. What results our pranks produce, human intellect is unable to analyse. This is our weapon."

Kite: "I am also aware of the Satan's Branch, since the gum produces exactly the same phenomenon in our beaks—in the beaks of birds of my clan."

Crow: "Miss President, please, do not forget that I conveyed to you the discovery of this secret plant, as also, of course, I conveyed the same information to auntie Kite. By your permission I want to reveal another secret to the audience. And that is the secret of water-gum, which goes in the Eastern countries by the name of '*REESH-I-BUZ*' (Goat's Beard). This is a kind of gummy substance hanging on the sides of pikes or poles by the sea-side. Man does not care for it nor analyses it chemically; but this is a very useful thing for us. If dried through our own process and mixed with the Satan's Branch gum-powder and sprinkled on clouds, then its striking velocity is ten times greater than that of Atom Bomb. Please, store up this information also."

President: "Thank you Mr. Crow, I do not deny that you have imparted to me another great valuable information and secret about "*SHAKH-I-AAHOO*" (Deer's Branch).*" (Laughter among the audience on this.) "I want to load you with another brave task on behalf of the Conference and that is, please, find out the sites where this Satan's Branch is available. To my knowledge we know only this much that it is found in the valleys of Hindu-kush. Please, oblige us by finding it out. We shall all thank you."

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* In poetical language lovers build their abodes on deer's horns.

Crow: (Opening up his sharp beak in glee): "What a nice and lovely thing you have uttered. my madame! No need of thanking me. I beg to add further that I am aware of the other qualities or merits of this plant. If its twigs and branches are carried aloft in the skies they drop out of our beaks automatically after reaching a certain height and hang loosely in the space and are illumined. They are deadly weapons. They illumine the clouds, and the clouds become so dangerously active that any metallic object coming in impact with them dashes down. Our pigeons with man's ornaments on their feet know this to their bitter taste. Every airman knows it that none survives after coming in contact with these glistening missiles and clouds.

"I can tell it with authenticity that Satan's Branch' is available in the valleys of Caucasus Mountains, in North-West Switzerland, in the beds of Niagra River before the falls and in the jungles and deserts of Africa everywhere.

"As for the juicy gum of the seas, it is found everywhere by the sea-side, on old buildings, pikes or bridge props. You may go to Karachi, for instance, or to Naples, Leningrad or Sevastopol Istambol, or to Baku, everywhere you will find this gum in plenty. Remember, it is "*REESH-I-BUZ*" (Goat's Bread)."

Swallow: "Please, President, I move closure. I request that you kindly invite resolutions now."

· Vulture: "I second the closure and beg to add that I shall try my level best in finding out the human and other secrets in future."

President: "I request Mr. Heron to come up with the resolution. Let every one be kindly attentive."

Ostrich: "President, please, excuse me, the resolutions were to be moved—and there is only one--by Miss Swan."

President: "All right, Miss Swan, please, move the resolution. Let every one be kindly attentive."

Swan: "Comrades, brother-delegates, sisters and Mr. President, we have got only one resolution and that runs like this:—

"That this Conference unanimously adopts that Satan's Branch and Goat's Beard be preserved under our Committee's strict control and that the delegates undertake to collect all the broken branches and twigs of this plant, as also its leaves, any hoard them at a very safe place where man can hardly get and access. The place should be inaccessible to him.

"Adopted further that these gums, branches and leaves be considered as our secret weapons, and for that all secrecy is to be sworn in by all."

All: "Agreed, hundred percent. Pass, pass! We all accept it."

President: "While thanking all before closing the proceedings I want to add something more and that is according to a recipe if we wash the branches of Satan's Branch plant with the waters of that mysterious Spring by the lowlands of Nepal in the Downs of the Himalayas—I refer to the 1st January Animal Conference Omnibus Resolution–and then we take the branches high up in the Ether and set fire to them they would then produce smoke which will envelope the skies, and that smoke will be anti-Radar, anti-gas, anti-rocket and anti-Atom and H-Bombs. I warn the birds to be aware when experiments with this process of ours are undertaken. I specifically ask the pigeons to be careful enough to cast o' human ornaments–those fetters which he puts on every-thing lovely.

"Moreover I want to reveal another secret to the delegates: This smoke, about which I have just referred to, we often experiment to awe man. We spread the vaporous clouds of these recipes high up in the Ether very near the sun, as man thinks so. As a matter of fact these are thousands of miles away from the un. These vapours hover round the Sun in such a manner that man thinks they are a part of the Sun. He calls them Sun-spots. What a decent name! These Sun-spots determine human life. He is awed by their appearance, and we spread these vapours simply to make fun at man's cost. There is nothing mystical in these spots and yet man is awfully mortally afraid of them. But this is one of our artifices and devices.

"I close the Conference with these remarks and request the delegates to the Animal Conference to convey greetings to the next session of the Animal Conference and entrust our resolution to the Central Committee for consideration and advice."



APPENDIX I.

THE LAST CONFERENCE

It is said that when the regional or sectional Conferences concluded, all the resolutions passed in them came up before the Central Committee of the Animal Conference. The Conference again met in the same lowlands of the Himalayas by the side of the same lake and adopted all of them with slight amendments to the better.

Greetings from far and near came and were reciprocated by the audience. The first day's Conference went into a secret session, the proceedings of which are not yet known. May be they were pertaining to the future course the animals were going to adopt about rendering human weapons useless.



II.

MANGUINS ADOPT A CONSTITUTION

In the second day's session the Conference adopted a Constitution for the "*MANGUIN REPUBLICS*" and there was left no room for Reforms, since the idea was deeply rooted that any time any philosopher might spring up among the animals and suggest some Reforms about the recreation and rehabilitation of man, and this might once more become fatal in the long run. Hence a Constitution, splitting the entire earth into regional Republics was unanimously adopted, with an addendum that any one suggesting any Reforms in the Constitution will be buried alive.

A vigilance corps under the leadership of Crow, Dog and Cat was formed to report all the propaganda conducted by the foreign embassies and governments against one another. All reports spoke very highly of the American efficacy in the sphere of propaganda, their impressing upon the people of every country about their mastery over all the weapons of destruction and over all financial pools and reserves.



III.

THE CONFERENCE ENDS

The Conference entered its last phase after the cumbersome work of reading and passing the Constitution. All pressed for closure. Before the closure the President permitted the Central Committee to move their resolution.

The Central Committee of the Animal Conference then moved their resolution thanking profusely the USA and Great Britain (once an Empire and now a colony of USA) and putting all reliance on America to help them in finishing up the human progeny. The Conference then end.

The Animal Conference ends.



Jungle Conference

DEDICATED

TO

THE MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, IN THE YEAR OF GRACE, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY FIVE.

FOREWORD

Appreciating with thanks and gratitude the success of the first "ANIMAL CONFERENCE"-the first serial of which appeared in the January of 1949 in newspapers—and also complying with the incessent pressure of my friends, I am again picking up my pen to write the second Conference, which I propose to call the "Jungle Conference".

I am grateful to the press of the world generally and the press of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma particularly for the encouraging reviews they gave on the first piece. I also thank those eminent personages of the world, both East and West, who have been good enough to write to me, personally, appreciating my humble service to the peace loving humanity.

15/11/1953.



INTRODUCTION

This book is a conglommeration of thoughts jumbled into words, and too few words to express the inner feelings of the writer. The animals, if they could express their thoughts and ideas into words, it is just possible this is the language—or rather still a harsher language—they would have used. In one sentence: this is a satire and allegory of the most simple type. It has neither come out of cynicism at human society nor in defence of the animal world and kingdom. It is, in pure and simple terms, a cry in the wilderness for the protection of human species and the living beings which has been threatened by the capitalist world that emphatically says: "If we have to go, we shall bang the door behind us with such force that it will shake the entire human edifice to its very foundation."

The present piece comes out exactly after more than five years of the first satire. The "ANIMAL CONFERENCE" faired well at the hands of the world press inspite of its bad get-up in both its editions—with poor printing to mar its value.

Now to come to this present book. This volume is neither a treatise on 'Push-button' warfare nor has it anything to do with some kind of scientific research. It is no thesis on physics or chemistry. Not being a student of science I have not dabbled in any scientific research or theories. I galloped with ideas as fast as they came and I crave the indulgence of science students if they find me intruding into their sphere, To tell you briefly and concisely, this is a piece of protest against the vagaries of the capitalist ruling class which has, in order to survive against the rapid tide of evolution, adopted means to blot out the entire human progeny from the earth if it refuses to be governed docilely and meekly according to the capitalist whims, concepts and dictates. It is a protest against initiators of atomic and nuclear weapons. The PENTAGON folks ought to have realised after the two horrible experiments on the non-combatant populace of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan—that this crude weapon is an eradicator of human and all animal life in the cruelest possible form. And instead of stock-piling this horrible weapon they ought to have seriously recommended to their patrons the total extinction of this monster. But nothing of such a hopeful sign is in sight. On the contrary the contradictions of the capitalist system are continuing, multiplying and threatening to lead the entire human edifice to wreck and ruin.

21/12/1953.



"JUNGLE CONFERENCE"

Under the lap of the towering Hindu Kush, by the side of the turbulent Panjsheer River, in the vicinity of a deep ravine, the Second Congress of the animals congregated.

The delegates of the entire animal world participated. The lion majestically took a few strides forward, and raising his graceful neck, roared :—

" Brothers and sisters, what terrific inconveniences have we suffered. what colossal hardships have we gone through for reaching this place. We found it impossible to enter the Khyber Pass, all approaches to it were barred—it is much more heavily guarded now than ever before–and the incessent firing by cannons, machine guns and rifles is ever in practice. Hence, we had to take the tedious arduous routes of the mountains all round. From Simla to Kashmir and from Quetta to Bolan Pass we explored all ways and reached here. We are here today again to consider our future course for protection against the ravages of man".

"Let us waste no time but begin our task in right earnest, First of all we have to thank our friend of the Afghan mountains, Mr. Dragon, who has dexterously swept the hedges and made the site clean and worth our congress session. He has taken special troubles in gathering the Afghan dry fruits, melons and what not. After all the Afghan hospitality is noted throughout the whole of the East. Now, in his capacity as the chairman of the Reception Committee, he will, I hope, enlighten us with his valuable experiences".

Elephant, "In my humble opinion we should elect a president first".

Fox, "I second the proposal".

Owl, "The first conference was successful owing to the capable handling by Miss Fox. Let us again elect her for this onerous task".

Fox, "No, please no. I was all the while apprehensive that this burden might fall on my shoulders again. My fears seem to

be coming true. In my humble opinion somebody from the night animals should preside; and I propose the name of Miss Swallow, because their armies have often destroyed human armies with mere pebbles and gravels thrown from the celestial heights. Refer to the "Tales of the Prophets". Remember, the next will be a RADAR WAR, a war of missiles".

Bear, with a short circuitous dance, "I agree fully of course".

Cat, "Meon, meon, meon... I wish to preside".

On all sides the noise of Swallow, Swallow, elect Miss Swallow, was so great that the 'meon, meon' of miss Pussy was drowned.

The president had just set her foot on the dried leaves and branches lying on the presidential stone-sublime and stately-she had not yet unfolded her wings even, that out from the cave yonder, appeared a shaggy, long haired, bear-like ferocious man. He came straight to the Conference site, bowed low, and kissing the ground thrice saluted all.

All were puzzled at this intrusion. Before any body could utter any thing the wild man commenced :

"Brethren of the jungle, of desert, mountain and plain, I plead as a guilty man and entreat you earnestly to allow me to participate in your deliberations. I am also an oppressed being like you. I am also a victim of human tyranny. They call me savage, and the civilised world does not admit me. They don't allow me to live either. Thus I seek shelter in mountains and caves. Lion and bear will bear me out that I am being hunted like wild animals in Australia, Africa and Americas. You all know this, perhaps".

Lion, "Yes, correct, and yet, inspite of all this, there is no place for you in our company. No son of Cain can be admitted into our midst. You cannot become an animal although you have got long hairs, a terror striking face; your nails are sharp and long, yet inspite of all this you have got the power of imagination, and that power of imagination will not allow you to become animal. You are not a tool-making animal-we would have to-

lerated so much–you are a thinking animal. And this is sufficient to bar you from any participation in our deliberations".

Snake, "He must be punished for intrusion. How dare he come and disturb our conference?"

Monkey, "Oh, sure! He must be punished. I am ever ready for this onerous duty. To punish the innocent I have learnt from man, and as you know, I imitate man in all respects".

"Yes we all know this, you shave with his razor and cut your own throat," smiled the Fox.

Bear, "Please just scrutinise, he might not be one of my species".

Nightangle, "Oh, yes, every man is your kin. I have often noticed you dancing with man in jungles with your arms around his neck".

Bear (smiling), Madame, you are mistaken. One whom I embrace, I kill. That's my dance".

"It's death-dance sure!" put in the Lion.

Bear, "May be you're correct".

Camel, "He's a man and he should certainly be punished."

"Has he done some special wrong to you", inquired Miss Fox".

"Camel–vendetta is known throughout the whole universe. I never forget the treatment which man metes out to me while riding my back, Miss Fox," sharply retorted Camel.

Miss Fox, "In matters of enmity, I believe in promptness. The Indian saying goes, 'Propose,* and marry promptly'. No delay. This is my belief".

Camel, "My belief is firm".

Cat, "Why delay, why not mete out the punishment soon to this man?"

---

* "Chat mangni pat biah".

Lion, "It is my opinion that this man must be made the Foreign Minister of some country. In human world there is no greater punishment these days than conferring on of this post. The Arjuanistan Government is in need of such a Foreign Secretary".

The Cat interrupted by habit, "Oh, no! This punishment is very interesting. There will be ample of enjoyment, plenty of rest, and on the top of it great many banquets. Free air travel to add to it........".

Elephant, "Good old dame". You cannot conceive of anything beyond good food and delicacies. You do not seem to be realising that none is more miserable in human world these days than a Foreign Minister. As the Indians say :—

> Qaziji duble kyon,
> (Cadi, why are you so thin?)
> Ke Shehr ka andesha.
> (Because of the cares of the town).

Don't you see he has to care for the opinions of the entire nation as also he has to maintain good relations with other countries. On every step he is beset with dangers and risks..... And moreover this particular man standing before us has got a beard which is a sure sign of diplomats and Foreign Secretaries".

Dog, "I agree with Mr. Lion fully because I am conversant with the habits and psychology of man. How megalomaniac and flattery loving is man, I alone know it being in constant company of him. I, therefore, second this resolution whole-heartedly".

The resolution of Mr. Lion about the man was passed unanimously. The Simurgh* was entrusted with the job of flying with this man to the kingdom of Arjuanistan and getting him installed as Foreign Minister there.

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* An imaginery bird of fabulous size holding whose legs men used to fly long distances. Indian and Persian literature is replete with the stories of this bird.



THE SIMURGH RETURNS

Hardly half an hour might have elapsed before the Simurgh returned from that unexplored region of Central Africa where this kingdom of Arjnanistan is situated. He succeeded in his mission without any difficulty because according to the Constitution of Arjnanistan only that person was entitled to the post of Foreign Ministership who was the most hairy one. The Lion was aware of this and also of the death of the last Foreign Minister of that State.

Kite, "Comrade President, I move a vote of thanks to Mr. Simurgh on behalf of the conference for his meritorious services to the animal world. What stupendous speed he has got! He has even beaten the record of the human delta-shaped airliners with a speed of 3000 m. p. h. This is no mean achievement. No one can possibly dream of such a thing even in a covetous trance. I move the vote."

Simurgh, "I have done nothing deserving of congratulations. It was unctuous service, not meritorious-the man was awfully oily.

Cock, "My kinsfolk, what greater task deserving of merits could there be than of ridding us of the company of man-a dangerous species. And moreover you were responsible for meting him out the sort of punishment which he will not forget for the rest of his life."

After the resolution about congratulating the Simurgh was passed the president announced, "I solemnly declare the conference open, and request that the proceedings should commence."

Kite, "In the human world the Chariman of the Reception Committee delivers his address first and we have done so much without regard to this procedure."

Dog, "We don't follow man. We have a different procedure. We boycot all conventions. I entreat you comrade presi-

dent, to ask Mr. Dragon to begin his reception address and oblige."

Dragon, with tears in his eyes, " In the solitude of my cave, in conversation with the stars above, I have prepared a dish of ideas—sheer imagination. I put this before you: I had been hearing so far that dangerous weapons have been invented in the world but I was content and complaisant in the sanctuary of my valley and was confiident that whatever happens to the world my serenity would not be disturbed. Atom or H-Bombs might destroy the world but they would not be able to disturb my valley. My sanctuary will remain immune I imagined.

" But one night my surprise had no limits when I saw in the pitch dark of the horizon a circular disc with changing colours of light like a chamelion. It was soundless. It was emitting forth shafts of lightening as fast as the tongues of an angered king cobra coming out of and going into the mouth, with fabulous speed. I was alarmed.

" Excuse me I did not attend the last Animal Conference because I had false notions of security in my valley. I thought I was safe. But this new object which I saw that night has opened my inner eyes. If I say, it had the speed of a rocket, it would not be wrong."

Swallow, " It was a radar propelled bomber."

Fox, " Yes, the future is going to be a Radar-Warfare and man is experimenting with this. I suppose it came from the South-East, as its base is somewhere in the South-East Seas."

Dragon, " Yes, of course correct. This was the direction. How did you know it ?

Fox, " I know this because I know many other things connected with the next radar war."

Eagle, " So it would not be atomic war ? "

Fox, " Wrong. It would commence with radar, and atom, N, and H-Bombs will play their own parts."

Swallow, "Please Dragon continue your address ; then what happened ?

Dragon, "Seeing this object, comrade president, I set on musing and began to ponder that if this object fired some missiles what would be the fate of my beautiful valley and what would happen to this turbulent Panjsheer River, which is noted for its ferocity throughout the country. I was wondering as to what object should I use to counter-act any blows of this 'bolt from the blue'."

"You need not worry about all this, Mr. Dragon. Our Shakh-i-Iblis, Reesh-i-Buz and Aab-i-Baqa* are more than a match for all these man-made weapons of destruction," interrupted the Snake.

"These discs which comrade Dragon is referring to must be American," put in the Owl in his sagacious way.

"Why malign America always, why not they were the Soviet ones ?", butted in Falcon.

Owl, "Who should think of maligning our ally-the only hope of ending the human progeny. As for the Russians they cannot be our allies or friends. They believe in perpetuating the rule of man. They are creating conditions in their country which convey that not only that they do not wish to end the human race but on the contrary they are contriving means and ways for improving the lot of the common man. That's dangerous. We can't look on them with reliance in our mission of human elimination ; and that inspite of their mastering the A. C. & the H-Bombs. You cannot trust this sort of dreaming race. Beware of them."

Dragon, "True ; to continue my story : This disc suddenly fell down ; then I saw a thick smoke rising up and enveloping it. There were thick volumes of smoke rising up in the sky."

"It was our Life-Water† smoke from that miraculous Spring which produces gasseous voluminious clouds, vapours and steams,

* Shakh-i-Iblis (Satan's Branch), Reesh-i-Buz (Goat's Beard) Aab-i-Baqa (Life-Water).

† Vide "Animal Conference" page 12.

the light effect of which makes Radar products and atomic weapons useless and harmless," putting in wisely, the Owl gave a circular motion to his head. Dragon, (continued his address), " And not a trace of the circular object was discernible. All that fell back on the ground was soot and smut, dust and ash."

Fox, " If you were present in our first conference you would have learnt it that we have evolved such vapours and steams which destroy all electronic and non-electronic weapons of man. Atom, H–C & N–Bombs or any radar missiles are all rendered harmless against the effects of our antidotes. We shall defeat his Radar-Warfare. Have confidence in animal prudence."

Cat, " Are there any more examples after the Bikini experiment of atomic explosions invloving the lives of animals ? I think there are none."

Lion, " Auntie you were in the kitchen busy with delicatesen when man was experimenting at NEVADA, MONTE BELLO (in Australia), and I hope you were still sleeping on man's lap when he was experimenting in the Sevier Bridge Reservoir of Central Utah."

Cat, " is there any proof of what you are saying about Utah?"

" This piece from a human newspaper will suffice to prove," and the lion threw the piece of paper towards the cat which the president caught up with a slight swing of her wings and read aloud :–

Salt Lake City, Nov. 13, 1953.

"The USA Naval Ordnance Laboratory today announced that what is thought to be the largest underwater charge ever to be detonated will be set off the week on Nov. 14, in the Sevier Bridge Reservoir in Central Utah."

"Results of the explosion test will have considerable value in planning for civil and military defence..."

"During recent years several isolated desert and mountain sites in Utah have been used for underground detonation experiments of high explosives."

"Fishes and Water-fowls please remember the word *under-water.*"

All the fishes. "We all remember Bikini and this one was expected to be more ruinous, but then we did not lag behind in using our own vapours to defeat man and his devilry. We are not unarmed as before."

Elephant, "After the post-war* experiments of atomic weapons, we thought that the man would give up this insanity, but it seems he is obstinate and is still continuing these in Australia, Africa, and where else, we do not know. The experiments in the wilderness are fatal to us. The victims are always animals."

Vulture, "Then" why did'nt we allow that poor Cave-man to participate in our conference. He is as much a victim as ourselves of these inhuman experiments? After all it was a question of solidarity."

Owl, "There is no question of solidarity. We 'organise separately and march together' with all those who are opposed to the 20th century man. So far as the Cave-man is concerned he will one day be as dangerous as the civilised man, once he evolves a civilisation, and much more dangerous, if he perchance, evolves a 'White' civilisation through interbreeding, 'social' contacts or some other process known only to man. After all he is a thinking animal, and nothing is more dangerous than thinking, as we all know it."

Fox, "Yes, correct."

Elephant, "He might be a thinking animal but not a correct thinking one. His judgment is so often faulty."

President, "What d'you mean?"

"Simple," added the elephant, "I'm from Assam and a field-ploughman there. My master had an inveterate enemy who was bent upon doing him incalculable harm. The enemy too had an elephant. So, one night he made his bull trample down his own paddy fields, and in the morning lodged a complaint with the

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* After the Second World War.

local Panchayat* that the elephant of his neighbour had ruined his paddy fields in the night. The Council of the elders was held and the judgment was awarded against my master and against my humble-self. I was caned and chastised mercilessly and the master was fined beyond his capacity. I could not bear all this injustice. I ran to the trampled field, and stamping my foot near the guilty one held it aloft till the men chasing me reached there. Some of them caught my gesture and examined the foot-prints and found to their utter dismay that I was not the guilty one, as the marks of feet left in the field were quite different to mine. But do you think it made any difference to the Panchayat? None. My wounds remained unhealed and the...."

President, "Excuse me, Mr. Elephant, the whole position is clear, you need not dilate on more truth in this respect."

"Man hangs man, Mr. Elephant, and so often the not guilty one. History is replete with instances–Sacco & Venzetti, "put in the Eagle".

Falcon, "Comrade President let Mr. Dragon go on with his address now."

Giraffe, "He has nothing more to add to the Elephant wisdom, I presume."

Dragon, "I've finished. Let Comrade Swallow go on with her presidential Thesis."

Swallow, "Comrade delegates of the earth, under-earth, water and air, I am very grateful to you for the honour you have been good enough to bestow on my humble and negligent-self, in electing president for guiding the deliberations of this auspicious occasion, for devising ways and means to defeat the devilry of man-made weapons. I've to make certain observations with regard to the radar-warfare......"

"Call it a 'push-button warfare' " interrupted the Crow.

"Thank you Mr. Crow, call it electronic, push-button or radar-warfare. It boils down to the same thing. But for convenience sake I have decided to term it radar-warfare.

* Panchayat : a council of elders.

"Several thousand years ago, much before the Jews were driven away from their homeland by the Philistines, there was a regular warfare between the animals and the man. We destroyed his armies and hordes with pebbles and gravel thrown from height. He was upset. And from that time on he engaged himself in finding ways and means of combating the birds, he set on evolving a technique for flying in the air, and when finally he succeded in inventing aeroplane, he forgot animals and started destroying his own kith and kin. Tiringingly has he worked on perfecting the aeroplane which will now fly pilotless and the radar bases on ground will monitor them. These radar monitored planes will hurl missiles on military and strategic targets in emballing movements from one end of a country to another. Machines will fight machines and human energy will be thus saved while inflicting colossal loss on the enemy.

"This technique which has been developed is of tremendous importance. It has vital features which have not yet been attained by jet or rocket. The most suitable bases for monitoring this kind of planes are in the South-East of Europe as well as in the south-west-in Italy and Spain."

"How d'you know it, comrade president?" butted in kite.

Please do not interrupt me I shall deal with all the aspects of this radar, only if you permit me uninterrupted," continued the president.

"You will ask why these bases have been selected, and not the ones in north of Europe. The reason is simple. These bases have got feeding bases in Africa in the Desert of Sahara, not easy to locate by any human observation planes. Thus, in the safety of this desert lie immense war materials to be flown to Europe-the mainland of all modern wars-and this is why Italy and Spain have been chosen. France could not be trusted as she is sometimes imbued with 'semi-democratic insanity'. That country, so often revolts against her undemocratic allies, and at the risk of a defeat even does not go in for the use of deadly poisonous weapons. France was in a position to have used the atom bombs against Germany much earlier than used in Hiroshima and

Nagasaki. But then Liberty, Equality and Fraternity slogans interfered with the ways of her military chiefs and lords. Thus you see what the position is, and what are the most dangerous places which we, the animals, have to be aware of for our own safety, and to guard against the idiosyncrasies of this Son of Cain.

"Are our three defence processes not sufficient to defeat him?" put in the Horse.

Wolf, "You mean, Life-water, Goat's Beard and Satan's Branch?"

Zebra, "This is the meaning of my friend, Horse."

Swallow, "Yes, we are quite adequately armed against the ravages of these human weapons. Yet we have to keep an eye on what new things of devastation he invents. And for that it is the duty of Crow, Cat and Dog as also of Mice to keep the animal world informed."

Dog, "We are always alert and Mr. Pigeon has so often been entrusted with the delivery of our secret despatches to the Committee."

"Yes Sir, yes, of course yes, I received some despatches from Mr. Crow, Mouse, and Mr. Dog and faithfully did I transmit the same to the Committee. But I received none from Pussy," said Mr. Pigeon.

"You never accosted me, and if you had done I'd have given you some important recipes of man," protested Miss Pussy.

"You mean the food recipes?" Hare interrupted the Cat.

Monkey, "You cann't expect her copying the scientific researches of man. That task is left to me."

Cat, "Why didn't the Committee trust you in the Vigilance Corps then?"

"There's no question of trust or confidence, it is a question of over-acting, out of enthusiasm though. Mr. Monkey has got this weakness in him," corrected the Eagle. "It was feared when electing the Committee that Mr. Monkey might use man's weapons

against him without the prior sanction of the Committee. This was the reason for keeping him out of the corps. You should know this, Miss Cat."

President, "No side talk, please."

Zebra, "I'd like someone to throw some light on the Flying-Bowls so often talked of by man."

Lion, "Yes, it is a very fair question and I take the liberty of answering, with the permission of the president. There were no flying-Bowls heard of before the atomic blasts took place on earth. It is recognised that the atomic clouds, after the detonation, shot up in the ether, and, reaching the stratosphere, disturbed life and atmosphere on the other planets. It were the inhabitants of Mars or Saturn who devised this Bowl and are coming to our sphere for scientific research work. They have not yet landed, at least there is no proof of it. May be they do not trust man. I think I'm clear."

Bear, "What're the nearest points of earth these flying-Bowls have so far reached?"

Elephant, "You ought to know better Mr. Bear. They have been sighted on the Himalayas and the polar regions. The reason of their coming is simple. The atomic blasts on earth have disturbed the life on Mars and Saturn and the Saturnians and Martians have launched expeditions to locate the source of these disturbances. They mean to punish the disturbers."



TRANCE-THESIS.

Lion, addressing the fox, "A short while ago we had some talk, Miss Fox, that you will be good enough to regale the conference with that Thesis of yours, which we agreed to call a Trance-Thesis- as according to you all those ideas included in the thesis came when you were in a trance. I beg your pardon, if I have offended you by divulging your secret before the time."

Fox, "You need not apologise Mr. Lion. I shall start right off."

AFTER THE WORLD WAR III

The Fox took a few steps towards the Chair and sitting on her haunches closed her eyes and proceeded:—

"Brothers and sisters; The Third World War was over in 1963. A great part of the earth was devastated by the atomic weapons, death-rays, multi-colour man-made lightenings and artificial earthquakes. What was known till the February of 1956 as world had shivered now to very small dimensions. Even the Himalayas had disappeared. Only that much portion of the earth remained where there were situated the Holy places of man; or some portions in close proximity with these lands. From Morocco to Indonesia and Indo-China very little was left. All other portions of the earth had gone underwater. The continent, which was generally known as Europe, was no where to be traced, nor was any land to be found as Americas. The only thing which remained in the West was a small island of London—this because it was the Mecca of the wealth-worshippers of the world. And Moscow, and all that is allied with it, remained quite intact because of its sacred value to the World Revolution and its adjuncts.

All governments had toppled. All State affairs were now being transacted in the Bazars. Curzon would have been mightily delighted to see this state of affairs, as he had once sarcastically remarked in the twenties, about the Bazar politics of the East. It was in 1922, when he had rebuked Turkey for her intransigence.

"There was Control operating on everything now. Whatever items were left out from this, had come now under its axe. Air and water were controlled and rationed. It was considered crime to hoard more water or consume more air......"

"What were the items which had come under control system after the World War II? butted in Miss Cat.

Fox, "You must be knowing them better, being in proximity with man and sharing his food. However, I add to your knowledge: Grains, sugar and all edibles came under this head. Licenses became rampant even for the importing of goat's milk Black marketing was one means of Impex*. Through this new scientific system of modern times the fatty began to fatten fatter and the lean became leaner. This must be clear to you now, Miss Cat,

President, please address the Chair, Miss Fox."

"Yes, Comrade President, I beg your pardon," proceeded Miss Fox.

"Now after the Third World War the black marketing extended to air and water too.

"No more did the people like to go for walks by the sea-side or the side of river parks, as the air in open places everywhere was contaminated. It was radio-active and poisonous. It was full of atomic dust. This was the case everywhere. People used to go to the air distribution centres with their gas masks on and buy this novel and rare commodity—the pure air and oxygen–according to their needs. One could see man everywhere in these masks resembling wearing elephant trunks. Pet animals were also supplied with oxygen of some cruder quality.

"Nowhere were open residences visible. All living was underground in closed houses where ran the taps for supplying fresh air for keeping the temperature of the rooms moderate. Of course there was tax on this supply.

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* A compound term for imports and exports coined by the mercantile community.

Rich and well-to-do people use to fly in the air in their cars, taxies and motor cycles, reaching sometimes the ordinary heights of 10,000 fts. It was seen that the motor vehicles would suddenly jump into the air from the roads and reach celestial heights. They began to hover in the skies like crows and kites."

"And like vultures too," interrupted the kite.

"Yes," said the Fox, and continued with her theme. And all the animals had disappeared from the skies, they had gone away to the north of India and south of Afghanistan. Some of these were seen in the vicinity of Jagdalak hills in Afghanistan.

"Old style aeroplanes were extinct now as every body could use his own vehicle for flying to whatever distances he chose. Air taxies became as common as the road taxies of the past.

"Gone were the days when it took 7 hours for air travel from Baghdad to Cairo. The travel was now reduced to bare 10 minutes between these two centres.

"There was only one danger which still faced these vehicles. It were the radio-active clouds, and for this, man had fitted in radar devices everywhere. I have nothing more to add," and Miss Fox opened her eyes.

"Trash all trash," sighed the Sardine, "The world remained as it was even after the World War III. Only a slight damage was done to it, and People's Democracies sprang up all over the world. What was eliminated was the oppression of man by man. The War started on 14th of February 1956 and finished exactly after six years. This was the repetition of the old cycle".

Fox protested vehemently and proceeded : "Don't compel me to lay bare more secrets of Ether than you can consume or digest. Be shocked to hear that there are going to be no more World Wars after the World War III; and life ceases to exist on Earth in 1999—the last year of all human and living beings existence. The Earth explodes in that year because of the human vagaries and his craze of scientific means of destruction. His experiments will end all life. Believe me or not!"

Sardine again interrupted : "You are quoting Michael Notre Damus of France who predicted in 1552 many things as also he predicted the Doomsday in 1999.

Hare, "Have you got a counter-Thesis, Miss Sardine?"

"No, I do not believe in verbiage. I believe in few words and more action," pleaded the Sardine.

Lizard, "Correct. World was not much changed in structure after the War".

"What about the Americas ?" questioned Mr. Wolf.

"Lizard," As to America what was left of it after the war and the guerilla action was a better American continent free from dollar and greed. It tabooed all former restrictions on thought and beliefs. Every one was free to think as he or she liked. There was no more victimisation on account of political faiths. It become a People's Democracy".

"Fine, Miss Lizard," growled the panther.

Camel, "Comrade President, with your permission I would like to know as to what all this talk is about the Moral re-armament which we hear so much in the human world".

Elephant, "It is a talk on moral values of re-armament. Man wants to find moral justification for arming and re-arming against his own folks. That's all. This is my tiny-self's opinion".

Bear, "Man has got many 'moral values'. They differ according to time and circumstances. He sometimes devises justification for keeping individuals under restraint and bondage and at others he subdues entire nations, on grounds of colour and culture. This is all moral. What he calls his birth-right is, he thinks, his exclusive prerogative. He does not allow the same birth right to others. That is the history of colonialism".

Camel, "We never knew, Mr. Bear, you were so dialectical in your approach. What you have given is a nice treat on moral values".

"Bear," It is all a question of load, Mr. Camel. They sometimes call it a 'White Man's Burden'."



CAVE-MAN & HIS FATE

Fox, "We would like to know," comrade President, the fate of the Cave-man whom Mr. Simurgh took to Arjuanistan for getting him the most irksome job of Foreign Secretaryship."

Lion, "Let's send an expedition to that land and get an authentic report. In my humble opinion none is more suitable for this mission than Mr. Crow assisted by Fox and Owl. I suggest Crow and Owl together for the simple reason that the former is the wise bird of India and the latter of Britain, and, as you know, these two countries are intertwined in an inseparable wedlock. It's a question of everlasting love between these two countries. They are inseparable."

Owl, "Arjuanistan is a country very far from here. Neither Mr. Crow, nor Miss Fox and much less myself can reach that country in less than thirty days of journey. Simurgh is the only bird who can undertake such an arduous trip."

Elephant, "For the first time your wisdom has failed, Mr. Owl. We are requesting Mr. Simurgh to take the trouble of landing you all three in Arjuanistan, and fetch you back, safely and comfortably, as soon as you have finalised your observations."

Simurgh, "If this is the decision of the Conference then I am willing to undertake this job. I would have myself undertaken the whole task but I am neither endowed with the Indo-British wisdom nor the cunning of Miss Fox. I am a simple bird which can be noticed by the Arjuanis if I try to fly from place to place. I am neither sly nor wise. My main proficiency is transport."

President, "Is it the sense of the House to send these three birds and Miss Fox to Arjuanistan. I desire vote."

Seeing all tails and necks of all the animals in assent-motion and the hands of the simian delegates raised aloft, the President declared the resolution passed without dissent. It was a unanimous decision. Owl and Crow sat on either wings of the huge bird while the Fox fixed herself in between the two legs. And, just when Mr. Simurgh was about to take off, the Cat jumped on

its body and the entire troupe left for the farthest destination in the unexplored central Africa.

The House Adjourns.

The President in the meanwhile adjourned the House so that the delegates could take a holiday and roam far and wide in the Hindu Kush mountains. Enjoying the julicy mulberries, tasting various fruits, climbing the hills and reposing in the dales, the entire sets of delegations enjoyed their well earned holiday. The recess was well utilised by some of the more inquisitive.

"Fishes," We decide to go up-stream and enjoy the bracing, icy cold winds. We shall report to the Conference if we come across anything unique or beneficial to our people. We are sure we will explore something new."

Birds, "We shall go up on that ice-cap, towering above our conference"

Quadrupeds, "We, the four-footed and flightless birds, decide to explore the ravines and enjoy the dry fruits for which this land is noted."

Monkey, "I shall go to the Cave and find out what the Cave-man was doing all the time there before we banished him to become the Foreign Secretary of that blessed land. I am sure, he was guarding some riches."

Lion, "Don't immitate him, otherwise we shall have to deport you also to some distant land likewise and instal you there as something. Remember, you are noted for plagiarism."

"There are many who copy others, it's a question of excelling; and I yield palm to none in this trait," added Mr. Monkey as his reply to Mr. Lion's retort.



THE EXPEDITION RETURNS

As the day for the return of the Expedition neared, the animals began to gather round the Conference site and formed panorama in anticipation of Mr. Simurgh's landing. There was all-round silence, and rapt attention was focussed on the sounds of the huge wings of the Simurgh heard nearing the site. None disturbed, but the monkey could not hold himself. Suddenly, taking off a tiger's skin off his body, he began to dance in his place and demonstrate his jewel necklaces and other ornaments put on his body like the human beings do in the East.

"This is what the Cave-man was guarding all this time in his abode," shouted the Monkey in glee.

" But the President ruled him out of order and asked him to sit down as silently as others, as the audience had no time to listen to his idiosyncrasies or pay any heed to his pranks.

President Rebukes The Cat.

In the midst of the panorama formed by the delegates to the Conference the Simurgh alighted lightly. The President greeted in the following words :—

" While heartily welcoming you and congratulating you Mr, Crow, Miss Fox, Mr. Owl and the great Mr. Simurgh I sharply demand explanation of Miss Pussy as to with whose permission she took the liberty of jumping on the back of Mr. Simurgh who bore all the brunt silently and without a protest."

Cat, " I-O-meon, comrade, I thought I could be useful in exploring the kitchen of man in that wonderful land, because without details about his eatables the Report would be incomplete and that is why at the last moment, in the interest of the animal world I hazarded a fall from the uncomfortable back of our great comrade." (Laughter all round.)

Lion, " Comrade President, we ought to have included auntie Cat in the expedition, and after all it was good that she

took the liberty for which, however, she should be lightly punished. The occasion demands a little leniency rather than harshness."

President, "Granted, Miss Cat you are pardoned of the major crime, and the only punishment meted out to you is that you should not interrupt the proceedings till you are asked to speak."

Cat, "Meon, yes."

President, "Let's have the report ; Mr. Crow begin please I request Miss Fox, Cat and the Owl to follow him. As for your report Mr. Simurgh we place at the end which is the other end of the top. You are the last but not the least important."

Crow, "Gada-i-shehr be-beneid Mir Majlis shud"* (Lo ! The city-beggar has become the head of the assembly).

"I saw Mr. Caveman at close quarters. He is now crowned king of Arjuanistan. This incident was a strange one ; his accession to the throne was through an election after the sudden demise of the ruling potentate of that State.

"This country has a convention that objects all solutions. If the king dies issueless, then the entire country votes for a new one. The choice fell on our Cave-man whom they now call 'Kiko-yi-Kook (Lord of the Universe).

Only the Commander-In-Chief of the State revolted against this choice of the people, and he was speedily dealt with by the King himself, according to the usage of the country. Two huge pieces of pliers with hollows at both ends were placed on the table of the King. The hollows at the tips were enough to contain a human head. The head of the C-in-C was put in between these hollows and pressed and stroked by the king himself with the result that his head got elongated and the top rose like a mountain cap. The idea was to place the brain as high in the body as possible so as to deprive the victim of his thinking power."

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* In Persian Language.

Wolf, "So, it was to deprive the C-in-C of his thinking powers! After all the savage had heard from us that he was not admitted into our conference because he possessed the thinking powers."

Crow, "May be you are true but I have no comments to make on this procedure. To continue with my report:

"The king appointed another C-In-C, more docile and faithful to himself.

"The king dresses himself in the wrappers of green and blue cloth, made from some rough fabrics. He wears a lot of shells and coloured stones around his neck and on his head-gear. His fads are varied. He behaves like a child and evinces a lot of buffoonery in his manners. He exhibits many pranks now. He is not yet married but is always found in the company of young girls—the first adjuncts of a modern civilisation these days.

"The entire country prefers the two colours-green and blue. For head-gear the populace puts on a cap which looks like a cross between the Turkish Fez and the Iranian peasant domed-hat. It's flat at the top.

"Arjuanistan is a beautiful country—colourful and lively. It is surrounded by ice-bound mountains; it is rich in verdure. People like green and blue, as I have said before. They greet one another with one hand on the stomach which signifies that, 'your place is somewhere in my stomach'."

Vulture, "they must be cannibals."

Crow, "No, they have not yet come to your standard in edibles."

Dog, "It is a question of belly."

Crow, "I have no inferences for the time being. I am concerned with simply rendering a report—faithful and graphic.

President, "Let the remarks be reserved till the report is over, Messrs Vulture and Dog."

Crow, "The capital, which they call Keek-Vye-Kook (city of the king), is situated between nine hills with each one having

a towering peak. And on these peaks are propped upright organs of the shape of louvers of some strange metal with sloping boards of 21 pieces and 12 each, interspersed, to keep up the harmony, perhaps. They produce nice music when the wind blows, and wind blows there all the 24 hours of the day. The music is melodious.

"On one of the larger hill-tops stands a huge ebony carved Camel. The people of this country are camel worshippers; that's the State religion there in Arjuanistan.

Camel, "I'm lucky."

Crow, "May be so, but we have seen no live camel in that country. They worship the dead, it seems. There's a danger that if you go there they might stuff you with grass and prop you up on some hill-top. They would not worship you alive. That's the custom. And in each home there is an ebony camel-idol, of the size of doll. They worship it by beating their right hand fingers on their foreheads in front of it. Strange, but true.

"Temperance is a crime. One who cannot drink has to produce a medical certificate of exemption. There are many cases where people have been found buying empty wine bottles and exhibiting prominently in homes so as to cheat the Excise Inspectors or Inspectresses when they go round for checking. Every one boasts that he or she drinks this elixir of life regularly. Thus some times the cost of empty bottles far exceeds that of the wine bottles themselves. On suspicion of abstinence these officers sometimes smell the mouths of the inmates, and this smelling is a promissing job, as more often the inmates seal the mouths of these guardians of law and order by heavy gifts—i. e. costly ones."

"To come to a very interesting question of the Satan's Branch I was quite upto the mark in my information when I told Comrade Chakore in the "Bird Conference" that this herb was available in Africa everywhere. ."

Parrot, "Although I am charged generally for short memory yet here I maintain my memory very distinctly and

clearly. You, Mr. Crow, said, 'in the deserts of Africa,' while this Arjuanistan is a country full of green as per your own account of the place."

Crow, "It's quite a minor deviation, Mr. Parrot, and I hope I will not be severely dealt with for this. (Laughter).

" For fear of further deviations I deem it necessary to close my account and hope "Mr. Owl will give a better version."

President, " Mr. Owl, please oblige us by describing every thing about Arjuanistan you saw during the sojourn there, we hope you have got many interesting sides of the life of that country to give us in your brilliant style."

Flapping both his massive wings, giving a majestic motion to his bulky head, the Owl settled down in the place just vacated by the Crow, and proceeded;

" Night life is very gay in Keek-vye-Kook. If I describe in detail it will take quite a lot of time and it will be wastage. I have a few things to add to the account rendered by my friend Mr. Crow. He was quite correct about the louver music, but what he could not see I have seen. It is the night life. As soon as it is 7-30 P. M., young singing girls are hauled at the bases of these louvers. Their voices blend with the natural musical notes of these organs, producing a marvellous symphony.

" But what is more interesting about Arjuanistan is that even those people are preparing for war which they term as 'War Against Neighbour.' In human world none is considered more dangerous these days than a neighbour. 'Fight thy neighbour' is a new slogan of the entire human world adopted in the twentieth century. This is nothing peculiar about the Arjuanistan people.

"For weapons, the warriors of that country have still got their spears and arrows but they do not shoot these with hands and bows these days. These weapons are fixed in different postures on huge electronic boards and shafts. They are shot by 'push-button' method." Kite, "Are they poisoned?"

Owl, "No, the Arjuanis are quite civilised people, they use microbes instead of poison on their arrow and spear tips (Laughter).

"These Arjuanis are wonderful people. They are also talking of war of Atoms and are preparing to fight the same against their immediate neighbours, since there are some political differences amongst these adjoining people; and human beings no more believe in the adage, 'Live and let live'. This is counted as deviation.

Crow, "No body expected such an unscientific talk from the wise bird of England. Mr. Owl's expressions deny the class-war in human world. He totally ignores the contradictions of capitalist system which produce wars. The race for markets leads to race for armaments and the race for armaments leads, ipso facto, to war. Our great friend does not seem to be reconciling this universal human theory with his ideology. The analysis, thus, is inaccurate and irrational."

Owl, "I beg your pardon. Then in a way Mr. Cow is supporting my premises. I should emphatically assert here that the guilty are the people who allow themselves to be docilely governed by—what they call—the capitalists. Guilty are the people who allowed Fascism and Nazism to flourish. A handful and a clique is governing these States, and the general people behave as sheep. This edifice of tyranny is supported and maintained by the people themselves..."

"Don't forget, 'economics govern the world'; finance capital has got the strings of governance in its hands," remonstrated Mr. Crow."

Owl, "Then why not overthrow Finance Capital? You are only constantly supporting my theory propounded in the "Bird Conference" that man is the reservoir of destruction. May be that man is symbolised by your Finance Capital."

President, "No more of your controversy, Mr. Crow and Mr. Owl, we want the Owl to proceed with his statement and if he is not going to add much to his observations then I call upon

the next member of the expedition to speak. But under no circumstances shall I permit this dialogue between you two to continue. "This will be against our interests."

Owl, "I resume my statement interrupted by Mr. Crow. But his was a very sound argument which has clarified many an issue at stake.

"Sticking firmly to my previous assertions that I yield palm to none in the 'mission of destruction' yet what I have seen of man is crossing the bounds in this mission. While I undertake my task slowly-allowing the mankind to grow and prosper-and attack where I feel to punish them, but, by the grace of all the devine virtues of 20th century civilisation, man is bent upon wrecking the world. There is another danger fast developing not only to man but to the entire universe. His craze about atomic researches will end in Mars dashing against the Earth and his mission to Moon will end in the destruction of that luminous island in the Ether. These are not my predictions b observations only. Believe me or not but these are facts-incontrovertible and laden with logic."

President," Confine yourself to your observations about Arjuanistan only, please."

"Yes, my lord..."

"Dont try to be funny, say Comrade or Mister. Mr. Owl", interrupted the great Bear.

Owl, "I beg your pardon. Confining strictly to my statement and observations of the expedition I beg to request that Comrade Crow should not interrupt me any more, and if he has got anything more to add, then let him come out with his addendum after I finish, comrade president..."

Crow, "But Comrade president..."

"Yes, Comrade Crow, but no more of your interruption, please," expostulated the President, "On with your statement, Mr. Owl."

Owl, "Continuing my talk about the weapons of the Arjuani people I think it wise to state that the arrows and spears they

use are radio-active. There is a central operation board from which they are shot and that board has hands like the chronometer all around it. These hands denote the distance of the targets.

"The country is electrified, and electricity is generated by a kind of sand rather than by water. It produces bright pale light which beats down the electricity of the civilised world. They guard the secret of electricity as much as the civilised world guards its atomic energy.

"The houses in that country are all single storied. Though thatched yet are very artistically mass produced. In the corners of the rooms in each house there are moonlike florescent tubes which are so embedded in the walls that they are hardly discernible during the day. In the nights they burst out like projectiles with their cool lovely light.

"Incidentally I should describe how the sexes greet one another when they meet. They cross their hands on the hearts which signifies, 'My heart is clean'..."

Nightangle, "Nice way for expressing matters of heart."

Dog," Comrade president, this genial way of greetings is not clear to me."

Owl, "It is quite clear. It means my heart is a clean slate and there is a place for you." (Peals of laughter).

Fox, *"Letting go, Comrade Owl."

Owl, "There are very good Opera Houses in the country and specially in the capital where dances around the central fire are very common, no matter how hot it is......"

Polar Bear, "Awful!"

"Not so much. Have no fears. There is a central cooling station in each capital city, and just as the houses are heated in the West so are they being cooled in this country under review......"

Cuckoo, "Wonderful!"

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* Children's slang for 'let it go.'

Owl, "Yes very wonderful and here I conclude my statement. Do not wish to be long. I am noted for brevity."

President, "Thanks Mr. Owl for your glaring revelations. I ask Miss Pussy to come forward and regale us with her experiences of food in that country."

Cat, "Me, O, meon. I have forgotten everything I tasted. All I remember are the supersonic vibrations on my tongue of those tasty dishes, all else I've forgotten. I am unable to utter a single syllable further than this."

Crow, "That was of course expected of you. You rendered us no help while you were in our company but were simply scratching violently your claws on the wings of our great friend, Mr. Simurgh, on whose back you had jumped without any body's permission or sanction."

President facing the Fox motioned her to come up for her turn of the narration.

Fox, wagging slyly her brushy tail, lifting her one paw, erecting her left ear, lisping her lips with her sharp tongue, proceeded:—

"Comrade President, friends and comrades, it is a Brain-Age, as we had termed it in our first 'Animal Conference'. It is a period of 'psychological warfare'. The cold war is over and humanity is now entering a new phase in its total warfare. This new wind is blowing from the West and is spreading to the South East Seas. It is fatal but vital (for us alone). Human brain is now constantly guiding him towards a precipice which will lead him to total extinction. It is a happy augury that the rule of man is fast going to come to an abrupt end—soon and systematic......"

"Is this preface necessary?" Valture interjected. "Why this foreword?"

Fox retorted, "For those who believe in foretaste it is not necessary."

Lion, "Correct, it's pitiable that some of us should adopt the tactics of obstruction so common in the world of human beings."

Fox, "Thanks for this support. To continue my topic, what I saw and heard is unbelievable yet true. I overheard in the fields the peasants discussing amongst themselves strange topics of the day.

"One said, 'What an awful thing that we should fight our neighbours simply because we worship Camel and they the Horse,

Second, "History of mankind is a history of wars for property. It has sometimes been, geneologically speaking, for religion, for private property, for markets and so on and so forth. But the main purpose is greed."

Third, "Human literature has always justified and sanctified wars. Look our history, look at our forefathers, they always spoke that without war there is no progress."

Fourth, "That is necessary for psychological preparation for war."

First, "The civilised call us savages."

Second, "Because we fight with arrows and spears."

Furrore amongst the listeners over this sentence, and questions.

Second, "While answering this volley of questions as to with what the civilised fight you have heard the name of H-and Atom bombs. They kill en masse, while we kill individually. We are thus backward and savages.

Third, "We are also progressing towards civilisation now, we are proposing to use our arrows and spears not by hand but by Biz-biz."

Lion, "What's this Biz-biz?"

Fox, "This is the name of their electricity."

Then the fourth added, "Our king, who talks through the all-rounder interpreter, says that even animals are now organising against mankind and for their defence against man-made weapons. He had seen them in a big conference in a distant land where he says panthers and tigers were sitting side by side with sheep and

goats—their natural food. They were devising means of combatting mankind,"

Third, "It seems the animals are now becoming conscious. It seems instinctively, like ourselves, they have a prognosis about the end of the world. I presume they are organising for a common defence."

Fourth, "In a way these animals are better than ourselves since they have sunk all their animal differences for the sake of common protection and for safety."

Second, " But we Camel worshippers and Horse worshippers cannot sink ours. Our differences float."

Third, "Why?"

Second, " Our defence of property is sacred while the animals have no such problem."

Third, Oh, yes, we have to safeguard our ill-gotten wealth and do not think of re-distribution amongst the needy. We perpetuate poverty. And the most civilised form of society amongst ourselves is that which has got sharp divisions of poverty and riches; palaces and thatched huts; cars and bare feet."

Fourth, "Yes, Keekoo; you can talk clearly because you have travelled over the world."

" Keekoo sounds like an Indian name," butted in the Kite.

Fox, "Every name begins with K. in that country. But to proceed further I beg to state that just at this time a farmer noticed me crouching under the bushes and he threw a stone towards me. I persisted. Finding me adamant he got up with his club in hand and advanced towards me. I had to quit. It was just at this time that I heard the yelping-grumphing sound, which was the sound as arranged to be given by Mr. Simurgh for re-assembling for departure. We all aasembled and this terminated my observations. I have finished."

President, "I call upon Mr. Simurgh to round up the report of the expedition by his wise observations."

Simurgh, "Fellow delegates, and, please, President, although my bulk is large my speech is concise. I have to give only a few

facts that I observed during my sojourn in that wonderful land. Being afraid lest I be noticed by man I remained mostly in ravines and thick forests. Undetected I surveyed the country. It has some potentialities which the people have not yet realised. It is rich in potash, bromine, salt, gypsum, magnesium, and as for sulphur, mica and other minerals there are miles and miles together. These are all untapped reservoirs. If the civilised man finds these out then of course he will construct all conceivable scientific weapons for periodic slaughter of one another. But, for the time being, as it is, the modern man has not reached there.

"I do not propose to pose myself as 'know-all'. Suffice it to say that I had no other opportunities of studying the country of our expedition. I had a talk with some of the animals and they were very very much satisfied with the results of the first 'Animal Conference'.

"I think I must conclude now,"

President "Before calling for resolutions I wish to know whether other delegates have anything special to report about their individual experiences which they might have come across during the recess period. If you remember, Mr. Monkey was making a show of his find when we reassembled. He seemed to be very anxious to impart some valuable information to the House."

Monkey, "Though I have got fundamental differences with man yet I like immensely some of his things and share the same with him. For instance, his fruits and vegetarian food.

"When all the delegates went their individual and collective way I started on a collective mission, though took the individual course. All the while I was anxious as to what this Cave-man, whom we have banished to far off Arjuanistan, was doing in that cave. I wanted to study his mode of life. This inquisitiveness drove me thither. And lo! Entering the cave I found a huge dump of jewellery and ornaments of gold; and eburnine curios were countless, lying helter skelter here and there, as if the Caveman was playing with them all the while in his solitude. I

daresay he was guarding this treasure in the cave. Believe me or not, there is plenty of jewellery lying there. There are diamonds of large size, dazzling rubies, sapphires and unnamed precious stones. I cannot fetch all of them here. If you wish to examine them then, please, send Camel or Buffalo for bringing the load. Look, how brilliant are these necklaces and bracelets that I have brought. (Demonstrating the same Monkey said)."

Buffalo, "Those who share ornaments with man should bring the load. I am no where in his favour."

"President, "Elephant, Camel, Pigeon and the Horse are the known animals known to us who have enjoyed human ornaments."

Camel, "I protest very vehemently: they are imposed on us. We never don them willingly."

Elephant, lifting his trunk high showed his inner teeth in smile and laughter and said, "I relish the ornaments immensely and feel proud when on festival occasions the people look more towards me and admire me than they do the Maharajah or the Nawab sitting perilously in the canopy on my back. I wish I could go to the cave and bring all that."

President, "No, I order Mr. Camel to oblige us with this mission."

The Monkey led the Camel to the mouth of the cave and loaded all the jewellery on his back. Not content with loading him so heavily the Monkey jumped on the back of the Camel and enkernelled himself in a huge brass vessel already full of ornaments and jewels. It was a free ride."

Entering the Conference arena the Monkey emptied bags after bags of his find.

The curiosity having been satisfied after some time, a general discussion started about these jewels. Controversies multiplied as to the real owner of all this wealth.

Dog, "This is not the whole thing. Mr. Monkey could not penetrate the hidden reservoirs there. I had been there much earlier than him, and, through my instinct of detection, came to

know that much more than what was lying on the surface in the cave was buried in huge metal pots in the earth."

President, "Will the diggers like Mouse, Fox, Hare and others take the trouble of helping us in unearthing all the wealth?"

Elephant, "I offer my services for fetching all this as none else, in my opinion, would be able to bear this heavy burden."

After a short time the Elephant came laden with unheard of wealth which when poured on the ground dazzled the eyes of all; and Mr. Owl had to close his eyes very tightly. It was a huge heap of gold and stones of fabulous value.

Parrot, "Wonderful, after all it was 'His Master's Voice' that guided our Dog friend to this treasure."

Wolf, "On the contrary it is Dog who guides the master. And he himself told us in the First Conference: 'I possess the knowledge of hidden treasures in the earth and yet......' ".

Parrot, interrupting the wolf, "Yes, I remember, you need not quote any more, please. After all I am not so short of memory as people think."

Monkey, "I can daresay that all this wealth embedded in the cave is from India. The invaders from the north brought all this for taking away to their homes but it seems they either perished in cold or purposely stored here and forgot their way while coming back to take it. I propose that this should be now returned to the country of its origin."

Elephant, "It's a sound proposition but that country has been divided beyond recognition, and this return will cause, or rather add to their quarrels over the division of the booty. On the contrary let us wait till India is reunited. Let this wealth be kept as safe deposit in the same place."

Lion, "Se we entrust all this huge dump of dazzling wealth—precious stones and gold—back into the same cave. I propose that we bring back the Cave-man to guard this treasure. The punishment we inflicted on him has become a boon. He is a king instead of the Foreign Minister—which we meant him to be."

Dragon, "Don't you think it's dangerons to leave the Cave-man again in my proximity. I might devour him."

Fox, "Don't forget we have passed the resolution against flesh eating."

President, "Let's not be so vindictive as that. We should let the Cave-man enjoy his kingship; after all there are so many other kings also in the world. Let him be one of them—a mere toy for the believers in fun." The world resolving into world revolution will take care of him, "Why soil our hands."

Lion, "Then who will guard this treasure—this jewellery and ornaments?"

Fox, "Bury them deep until India re-unites."

As per order of the President and the decision of the conference the entire treasure was sent back to the Cave to be buried in the same metal pots from which it had been poured out.

President, "I call upon others to give us their exploits if any."

Wolf, "With your permission, Comrade President, I beg to say that while rummaging for food in the heights of the Hindu Kush I came across this roll of paper buried in the snows. Looks rather strange."

President, "Mr. Crow, will you please oblige us by kindly interpreting this to us? None else knows the human language so well. Though Mr. Parrot repeats every word of man yet he professes that he understands very little. Therefore you are the proper person to deal with this paper."

Taking the paper from the President the Crow unrolled it with his sharp beak and read:

"It reads under the heading: 'PREDICTIONS' :—

'The world is coming to an abrupt end very soon through the Satanic devilry of man. His inventions will lead to colossal devastations. Every improvement that he effects in the mode of life will be defective. His brain will guide him of the path on all-round destruction-wreck and ruin. The more the deadly weapons

he will produce the more will his thirst for greater destructive weapons increase. The culmination point of this retrogression will reach its zenith in the 20th century A.D. This century will be marked by three major wars and many a minor ones, all to be fought by machines of wings, horseless vehicles and smokeful and smokeless weapons of speed and with gases, invisible and odourless-no smell and no colour. Let me detail the events chronologically year by year and century by century......"

President, "No, please, no, we are not interested in the details. We want only 20th century and that too after its middle, Mr. Crow."

Crow, "Yes, Comrade President," rolling the scroll a good deal the Crow proceeded:

"......The era of 'Push-button' warfare sets in. Preparations for this warfare go on till 1956. The Russo-Japanese War II begins and spreads all over the world."

The cause of this war is some radio-active dust settltng down on the western coast of Japan as a result of some scientific experiments on Turkish soil. But the blame by a Far Western power will be laid at the doors of Russia, and Japan will be made to declare war in retaliation for the human destruction on her soil. Russian protests of innocence will carry no weight-as the entire Western press aided by its Eastern allies will hurl accusations at the Russians.

President cynically remarked, "Perhaps the great Seer did not foresee that Russia will be known in the present era as the Soviet Union and not mere Russia. Yes, Mr. Crow go on with your onerous task of translation."

"I desire to know what happens to Germany in the Third War. On whose side would she be?" inquired anxiously Mr. Owl.

Crow, "Yes, yes......O, I see here we are. It is written:" Germany will be on the side of the Anglo-American group.

Fox, "What about the Germ-warfare?"

Crow, "Bacteriological warfare is clearly mentioned in the events describing the Third World War."

President, looking around at the faces of the delegates, we are not interested in these horrors, Sir, please, Crow roll the scroll up."

Crow," I too am feeling bored with this account of devastation. Let's dump it back in the same place from which Mr. Wolf dug it up, otherwise if this paper falls into the hands of man it would create a press sensation, and the entire mankind will justify all wars on the basis of astrological forecasts."



EFFECTS OF ATOMIC EXPERIMENTS & NEW DISEASES

President, "In the interest of common good I deem it necessary now to close the chapter of individual adventures undertaken during the period of recess when the expedition to Arjuanistan started. I wish now to turn to a different subject, and that is whether we are quite safe against what are known as atomic diseases. Would our Life-Water, Goat's Beard and Satan's Branch completely protect us againts these new ailments? It is reliably understood that the human and animal victims of these diseases have developed chronic symptoms of decay which the medico-scientists say are beyond their line of cures. It is necessary that we devote a little more of our time and consider also the prognosis about the future diseases coming out of the nuclear weapons."

Crow, "Yes, Mr. President, the 'metal germs' of the firs atomic tests of 1945, at human targets in Japan, and of 1946 and onward at animal targets are still floating in the air and infesting the entire world. The medical conference of the medicos of the world in May 1953 meeting at Vienna came to the conclusion that 'science is at present powerless to offer adequate treatment for diseases caused from the Japanese atom bomb explosions.'* It's a strange devilry. These germs penetrate the cells and pores of the body like boomerangs of micrococcus size. They remain dormant in the body for some time and then start that incurable disease which has baffled the known human medical science. The medico-scientists are puzzled about it. They refuse to agree about any possible cure."

Canary, "Is there no remedy against such a malady?"

President, "There is. And that is why Dragon and myself have invited you all here in this conference amidst these high mountains. There, on the tops of those cliffs above, are a kind of toadstools with dome-like tapering canopies over them. In this

* December, 13th, 1953, a headline in newspapers: DISEASE FROM ATOM BLAST. This is a short message about the Vienna Medical Conference held that year in May.

land we call this herb Gunbad-i-Shar (Dome of Mischief). If this fungus is ground and mixed with water it is the remedy against all injuries inflicted by the 'metal germ'. The disease, after its application, would disappear as if it had never existed."

"This knowledge then be added to our old stock," said the Lion.

Dragon, "Surely, yes, we should preserve it as safely as the other three in our store. "These rare things we should guard against man as much as he guards his trade secrets and atomic weapons."

Eagle, "Although this discovery is useful yet is there any sense in stock-piling all sorts of things? Are our three valuable recipes not enough to safeguard and protect us?"

President, "If this is the view of the entire House then in vain did we take the trouble of calling all of you here in this conference."

Crow, "Not the view of the entire House, comrade. On the contrary the more the recipes we have the more would we be safe from the mad devices of man."

Lion, "Can we have an idea of this plant?"

Dragon threw a bag of leaves in the middle of the Conference which burst into bits, and all could see the Gunbad-i-Shar (Dome of Mischief, scattered all over.

Eagle, "Can these deflect the boomerangs of the 'metal germs' or destroy them in the mid-air? Are they any match to our old recipes?"

Dragon, "You haven't caught the idea. Our three great prescriptions of Life-Water, Goat's-Beard and Satan's-Branch are each one of them quite adequate in their individual way in meeting out the dangers arising out of the human weapons of all kinds and categories; but if perchance the 'metal germs' escape on earth through our barriers then in that case this Dome of Mischief is the only herble remedy which destroys all metals in the same way as fire destroys grass or cloth or say all combustible materials I am clear, I hope. Please, another question."

Parrot, "Correct. No questions are necessary where truth is the rule. Will some of our friends locate the places on earth where this herb is foand besides the Hindu Kush?

Crow, "Yes it is the duty of my humble-self to undertake a little more research if the Conference orders."

President, "We have full confidence in Mr. Crow. None else is more capable of this supernal task."

Elephant, "I think all the important business is over by now."

Dragon, "Before we part I suggest that we should have 'Gamba' dance. I have made all arrangements to entertain the honourable delegates in my humble way. The occasion is auspicious, and it should end with such a happy gala performance. I hope there's no controversy on this suggestion."

Cat, "If Monsieur Monkey wishes to put on those human ornaments for this occasion I hope he would be quite welcome."

Monkey, "Dont forget Miss you have got more association with man than my humble-self."

Crow, "Pussy keep these choking stale jokes to yourself and come out with something original."

Lion, "Auntie Cat is light hearted. She believes in purrs. Seriousness is not her line."



RESOLUTIONS

On reassembling after a short recess the President resumed the Chair and said;

"We have reached a stage in our Conference when we should come up with our resolution. Nothing else of interest remains any more to be discussed."

Owl, "What about the remaining portions of the Predictions? Are we not going to have any more of the description of the coming destruction?"

Crow, "No; because none else is interested in destructions save your-self. And you require no human predictions to tell you as to what is passing on in the brain of man."

President, "It's a question of mental aberrations......Let's have the resolutions. Let Mr. Lion initiate and let Mr. Elephant second his old friend as after all they are the sponsors and co-sponsors of the First ANIMAL CONFERENCE."

Tiger, "There's only one main resolution as I understand."

President, "Please Lion, proceed."

Lion, "Feeling myself flattered at this honour I beg to move:

"That this 'JUNGLE CONFERENCE' adopts unanimously:—

(a) That we undertake to guard the great secret of the Gunbad-i-Shar (Dome Of Mischief) and use it sparsely wherever the necessity arises.

(b) That we agree to adopt the formation of a Committee consisting of Crow, Pigeon, Swallow and Dove for organising the collection of the above-said fungus as much of quantity as is physically possible for them.

(c) That we shall guard our secret and pry into the human secrets; and for this we constitute a committee consisting of the old members of the same i. e., Cat, Dog and Mouse as also Crow."

"I hope the resolution is clear."

Elephant, "With your permission Miss President, I second the resolution moved by my noble friend."

Hippopotamus, "Although myself and my friend Rhinoceros have been silent listeners all through the Conference yet a time has come that we too should speak."

President, "Who told you not to do; we shall welcome what you want to say."

Rhinoceros, "We think that an injustice has been done to the Vigilance Corps formed 'under the leadership of Crow, Dog and Cat......to report* all the propaganda conducted by the foreign embassies and governments against one another.' 'And if the delegates remember then,' all reports spoke very highly of the American efficacy in the sphere of propaganda,......etc. etc."

President, "What do you propose?"

Hippo, "A vote of thanks and the retention of the old Vigilance Corps with the addition contained in the Resolution."

Elephant, "Every body agrees with your sound proposition."

Monkey, "Why not delete the name of Miss Cat from the Vigilance Corps? I have seen from distance and close quarters, Pussy doing nothing but playing with man all the time. She has rendered no reports. Dog and Crow have done immense service. This is my amendment. Does any body support me? I am serious."

Cat, "Don't be jealous, Mr. Monkey. You have been trying all through the ages to be as near to man as possible but your habit of robbery, I want to say, your old habit of snatching away eatables from the hands of the children of man, has turned man against you. He chases you out whenever he sees you. But for your robbing propensities you would have been tolerated by man in the same way as Mr. Dog and myself.

President, "No side-talk please......Coming to the main resolution I call for a negative vote. If any one is opposed to this resolution please raise your hand, paw, head or tail......None I notice is opposed to it."

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* This refers to the "ANIMAL CONFERENCE"

Seeing a huge heap of dry fruits and fresh, in the middle of the arena the President drew the attention of Dragon about the absence of bread which was the staple food of the Cat and some other feline animals who now lived on bread and rice after their renunciation of flesh. The Dragon assured the President that this was not ignored, on the contrary an expedition consisting of Messrs. Simurgh, Cat and Monkey was thought out, to the extreme west where the Feast of LORD HEPTAGON was being held and plenty of dishes were under preparation. Nan—the milk bread—he smelled, was just then under preparation. "With his speed of more than 30,000 m.p.h., which is 5,000 m.p.h more than that of the human interplanetary rocket and space-ships under experimentation, the Simurgh will fetch all these articles laden on his back. We have every faith and confidence in the robbing propensities of our friend Monkey and stealing ones of those of Miss Pussy; we shall, in no time, be having all that is wanted," summed up his assurance Mr. Dragon in these words.



IT STARTS

The President perched on the bunches of grapes and strawberries lying on the top of the food-mound consisting of melons and apples, cocumbers and pomegranates, mulberry-stuffed bread and milk one, in a way all the rich fruits and vegetable foods of the world.

The dance circle was nicely planned. The hoofed animals stood together in the same curve; the padded-foot, next; the claw owners after, and in this way, category by category, all took their rightful places. The Gamba dance started. The Bear picked up a roundish stick and in the fashion of the band masters he ascended the granite rostrum after removing the dry twigs which had been used as presidential chair for the conference.

Swinging and wagging his wand the Bear started his directing the Ball. Oh, what beautiful jerks he gave to his body! Jesticulating, bending double, throwing his hands in the air, beating his feet on the ground, he performed his unique task of the band master. The 'Gamba' went round about and round about with grunts, grumphs, yelps, cooings, croakings, roars, whistles and what more, all serving as rhythmic harmony. The Monkey went on clapping with both his hands, and the Parrot kept crying 'Keym chhe-Saro chhe*' all throughout the dance. The cluck cluck guttural sound of the duck reminded the entire assemblage of the regular tick tick of the pendulum of a wall clock.

After a good deal of jolting and hopping the entire delegate world seemed to be tired. The Bear gave a final jerk to his wand and stopped dancing himself. This was a signal for the Gamba to end.

As it was getting dark now the dancers decided to finish with their feast before night overtook them. All the animals dined together.

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* In Gujerati language it means 'How do you do?— All right'

GALA NIGHT

The Feast finished exactly at sunset. In no time the entire mountain region was floodlit. How did it occur to the animals to mimic man in all respects is incomprehensible, yet the illumination of the icicles hanging through the caves, the peaks shining like thousands of candle lights, beat man in this sphere of animal activities in ingenuity and originality ; all this was the work of only one and only one. That was Chakore who took to the skies the twigs of Satan's Branch which when 'carried aloft in the skies they drop out of beaks (of birds) automatically* after reaching a certain height and hang loosely in the space and are illumined'. They illumined the clouds and peaks and everything crystalline including the quartz boulders and rocks nearby.

Only one animal could not bear all this illumination, and it was Owl. He protested against such an innovation and threatened to leave the conference, at which Miss Swallow humourously remarked : "Don't forget Mr. Owl it is not the Conference in session that you require permission to quit or defiantly stage a walk-out. If night is your sleeping time then you are welcome to go, otherwise, once in your life, enjoy the lights."

"I am sorry Miss Swallow, I mean Miss President, this light, I find does not hurt my eyes and the eyes of my night companions too ; may be perhaps because it is not engendered through human agencies," the Owl growled.

Chakore, "Thank you for the compliments."

It was just midnight that Mr. Monkey addressed the President, "The show has been stolen from me by Mr. Bear. I protest. I am the person who has the previlege of imitating man in all respects. How dare he mimic man by usurping the role of a music conductor. I challenge him to dance opposite me, and I leave the delegates to give their verdict as to whether I danced better than him or he excelled me.

"Yes, yes we want this bout, come on Mr. Monkey, let's have your competition with Mr. Bear." Was the noise all round.

* Vide Animal Conference page 45.

And when Mr. Monkey asked for permission to go to the Cave far a minute, the Cat sarcastically remarked, "Don't burn your fingers, there is fire burning in there."

"Don't worry, "retorted Mr. Monkey," I use cat's paw where fire is concerned.

A few minutes later the Monkey came fully dressed in embroidered shirt and trousers, with a small crown adoring his head and the Moghul slippers of beautiful colours on his feet.

"Where from did you get all this ?" enquired the Lion.

"When we buried all the treasure in the cave I hid these things in a crevice there."

The competition-dance started. All the dances the human world knows of Monkey demonstrated, while the only novel feature of the performance of the Bear was his incessently beating up of his chest–in mirth or moan, no body can tell. Monkey had one more advantage and that was his small drum, studded with jewels and plated with gold at the edges, shining brilliantly in the lights. The sound of the drum was very pleasing and all thought that verdict of victory will be given in Monkey's favour.

When the dance ended the panel of three adjudicators, composed of Dog, Crocodile and presided over by Fox gave the verdict in favour of Mr. Bear, with the remark that whereas the Monkey had borrowed all his dances and music from man the Bear had his originally.

Crest-fallen the Monkey sat down, after throwing all his adornment and drum before the President.

Just at this moment a hooded pall of white was seen descending from the sky. Attention of all was focussed on this snow-white figure.

None stirred. But the Dog began to bark violently.

President, "What is that which makes you bark so ferociously ?"

Dog, "Apparition, look, the ghost is coming down."

And the ghost after descending on earth stood silently outside the arena for a moment. And when the Dog stopped barking, he proceeded in a sonorous voice :—

"I am Wells."

"You mean Mr. H. G. Wells," interrupted the Fox.

"Initials do not matter much to the dead. I am on a mission to your Conference. Please, listen, Mr. President."

"Yes, Mr. Wells."

"I have come to plead for my nation, and request you to be good enough to send a copy of your proceedings to the people of my country. They did not listen to my warnings, they might listen to you."

"Your people are adverse to any advice; on the contrary they kindle the fire fiirst which envelopes the entire world in World Wars," butted in Miss Fox.

Ghost, "I'll agree with you only if you tell me as to who is responsible for the present tension-the cold war."

"The 'famous' FULTON speech of your Premier, Mr. Wells. Remember you that year, 1946 ?" Retorted Mr. Elephant.

Ghost, "Inspite of all this sin, will you grant my request for the wide circulation of your Conference proceedings in England ?"

Fox, "Your country ignored and boycotted our first 'Animal Conference'. Not a word about it was uttered in your homes not even in the Leftist ones."

Ghost, "There are no wings in my country. All is Right there. What you call Leftism is all a mere mirage so far as England is concerned, listen you, Miss Fox."

President, intervening, "Mr. Wells, when they did not heed your writings, how should we presume that they will care for our warnings ?"

Ghost, "They might. It is animal wisdom".

President, " You're asking for too much."

"What do I gain then by coming down to your conference?"

President, " Our respect, Mr. Wells. The only man in England who deserves our respect.

Ghost, "Morning is approaching fast. I must disappear. Hope to see you again some time. Adieu, gentlemen."

"Adieu," said the President and the whole assemblage repeated this word till the surroundings echoed and re-echoed with 'Adieu.'

The ghost disappeared.

And no sooner had the apparition of Mr. H. G. Wells disappeared there appeared another one more gigantic and imposing. It descended like a huge pall on earth. It did not stand outside but came straight inside the arena. It took its position near the Presidential stone. All animals stood up respectfully.

" I'm Anatole France".

And the Parrot could not check the temptation of trying its French:-

"Parler vous France, Monsieur Anatole France ?"

"Oui Monsieur." was the prompt reply from the great apparition. Drawing the attention of all, the apparition said: "Why did you turn back Mr. H. G. Wells so unceremoniously, will any one answer, please?"

"Yes, Mr. France" started the Fox, "His request was beyond our compliance. He wanted us to make the English people understand as to what was in store for them in Atomic and Push-button warfares. When the great savants of yore, when the great philosophers of the great age gone-by could not convince the British people that 'your Island, which is like a small rib, will not be able to withstand the atomic tests why then you prepare always for war and not for peace?" They never heeded".

"I understand", said the apparition. "Will you then please convince the French about the futility of preparing for war?"

Dog, "Impossible! They drink Scotch Whisky these days and follow the British in all the bad ways."

The apparition, "In other words you mean to say, they are also irredeemable."

"Exactly so Mr. France," put in Dog.

Fox, "Mr. France we all respect you for your wonderful book the "Penguin Islands". You understand the animal nature very well, and this is why I am requesting you to tell us if there is any hope for the human world as a whole. Tell us what will happen if a Cobalt Bomb bursts today. But besides the Cobalt bombs, you know it very well, mankind, in its craze, has invented many other weapons which it is afraid to bring to the stage of experimenting."

"Correct Miss Fox," sighed the apparition."

"Day is dawning Mr. Anatole France, lest you be late," added the Dog.

"I thank you all for giving me a patient hearing. I go now Adieu!

"Farewell, Mr. France", was the huge uproar heard in response to the apparition's Adieu".

The figure rose up and in no time it again assumed the shape of a pall hanging in the horizon till it disappeared completely.

Before it was morning the birds brought out their twig missiles from the space and the sky, and the mountains resumed their normal form.

It was the morning, sun shining on the Panjshir and reflecting its rays all round, which made it impossible for the slumbering mass to sleep in the open. Before midday the Conference again assembled to hear if there was anything more on the agenda.

President, "Comrades and friends, we have transacted all our business and now nothing more of importance remains to be deliberated. I think it is high time that we concluded this conference session.

Cobra, standing erect and spinning on his tail, "Yes, there remains exactly very much to be said which has not been said hitherto, I request your kind indulgence to allow me to speak for some moments. It is about what is misnamed as 'Ballia Snake Suicide' that I wish to speak about, A misstatement has to be corrected. And none is more equipped than my humble-self on this subject."

Owl, "Did we not have had sufficient authentic report in one of our regional conferences of the First Session about this subject?"

Snake, No. Exactly, that is why I wish to bring in that topic and clarify misunderstanding about that mass massacre which you generally call with man, the mass suicide of the snakes."

Kite, "Can we not defer this subject to the next Conference? After all we shall be gaining nothing of vital importance by coming to know posthumously that, what, we were told to be a snake suicide was in fact a snake mass massacre."

Crow, "That's rather unfair to an entire species. You being one of the delegates in the last Conference ought to have stressed for the investigation of truth about this particular episode of world importance."

Kite, "Beg your pardon. This subject was discussed only in the regional conference of the Water Animals and did not come up before the general session at all."

Falcon, "Does this discrepancy debar the subject to be re-opened in this Conference ?"

Trout shouted from her river seat, "Call it a lacuna."

President, "Yes correct. It does not debar. I rule that we should give a chance to the reptile world to lay their case fully before this conference which is the supreme tribunal to judge all affairs."

Swan, "Are we having a full dress debate on this subject?"

Fox, "It is not a debatable subject. Let Mr. Cobra render the full report and the House listen to his version. This will be proper in my view."

President, " I think this is sound."

"As we are tired because of last night's show and yesterday's dance I deem it necessary to declare holiday for the rest of today and propose to adjourn the House. I hope there are no two opinions on this." Added the President.

Finding all round assent on his proposal the President adjourned the House.



SUPPLEMENT

Report of The

SNAKE CONFERENCE

President resuming her seat on the twigs spread on the presidential stone looked around and remarked :—

"I hope every one must be feeling quite refreshed after so much of second recess. Let Mr. Cobra render his long awaited report. Are you prepared with it by now Mr. Delegate of the underground ?"

Cobra, "Yes, I am prepared, and I hope I will not be unnecessarilly interrupted. Should I proceed Comrade President ?"

President, "Yes Sir, please go on. Let every one of us pay heed. It's a very interesting account we are going to hear."

Making a coil of half of his body and raising the hood like a canopy, casting a look around, Mr. Cobra proceeded :—

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is an account of human tyranny unprovoked by any of our actions—overt or covert. After the great tragedy of Ballia in Uttar Pradesh of India we held a Snake Conference in the Nagwa suberb of Banaras near the University. This Nagwa as you must know has been named by Banaras people meaning 'snake locality'. We assembled here under the shrubs and bushes in a moonlit night. All the creatures of the underground came. It was presided over by my humbleself and hence I am the proper person to represent their case and report faithfully what exactly happened in Ballia."

"Those of you who know man-made geography must be knowing the lines of meridians—the longitudes as well as latitudes must be known to them. I am only talking about the meridians 80 to 90. Hear lies our Ballia and the line crosses over to the other side meeting again at the other poles. These lines cross the poles on both sides. But this is besides the point. I am not behaving here as a teacher of Geography. I wish only to draw

your kind attention to this particular meridian for guidance. It was somewhere on this line beginning from 80 and ending with 90 that an atomic blast took place.

Dog, "Excuse me please are you referring here to the 'several isolated desert and mountain sites...... used for underground detonation experiments of high explosives with charges ranging up to 165 tons?' *"

"Being near to man these details must be known to you only, as you read all his papers 'diligently and minutely' as per your own assertion in our First Conference, Mr. Dog," remarked the Fox who had presided then.

Crow, "For the first time in history Mr. Dog you have failed on this occasion in reading the newspaper of your master 'diligently and minutely'. The paragraph in question runs like this:—

"During recent years several isolated desert and mountain sites in UTAH have been used for underground detonation experiments of high explosives with charges ranging upto 165 tons."

Llama, "It's fantastic. This is slur on animal intellect to think that an explosion on the other side of the line could affect Ballia."

Crow, "Local patriotism perhaps! If you want to defend the land of your birth Mr. Llama you could do it in another way also. There is no use perverting truth."

Tiger, "Does my friend Mr. Llama mean to challenge that it's not possible what Mr. Snake is narrating?"

President, "Will you please, Mr. Snake, resume your report and oblige"?

Snake, "I was referring to an atomic blast that took place between the meridians 80 and 90. This underground blast was so terrific that we the denizens in that region felt tremors so violently that they shook our ribs. The gas rushed into our nostrils and in

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* A press message on 13th November 1953.

vain did some of still alive amongst us tried to rush above ground only to die of exhaustion and suffocation. Now you will ask as to how this blast which took place some thousands of miles on the other side of our continent selected our particular locality as its target. You will not believe that the rockets if they are meant to shoot straight up they do so. If the radar guided Missiles are directed to adopt a particular course they do it as if in obedience to certain laws of science. In the same way the 'underground detonation experiments on the same longitude as our town and district shot straight down piercing our parts and contaminating the atmosphere. Believe it or not but this is what happened."

"Why should you not think that the people of your own country did it to get rid of the snake pest?" Ejaculated Mr. Owl sarcastically.

Snake, "For the simple reason that the people of my country are non-violent; the only exception being teachers. This is why I beg to stress that it was neither our mass suicide nor the work of our human agencies. It was the work of some other power and you are quite welcome to examine that territory. At least some amongst us can penetrate underground and investigate for themselves the truth of my statement. I can not guarantee if they are affected by the same gasses and fumes which suffocated us.

"We ourselves are non-violent. We never take to offensive and this is why the country where Ballia is situated snakes are not only tolerated but fed on milk. We only take to violence against human beings when they take to offensive against us......"

"Any proof of this?" shouted the Eagle.

Snake, "Yes, plenty, and I shall give an instance of this when I finish."

Kite, "You mean to say that you never take, what is known as, forward action."

Snake "We retaliate only when attacked, this is my humble submission. And we feel sorry if inadvertently we bite some one."

Crow, "Any proof?"

Shake, "Ample. I defer the reply till after the report. I shall illustrate what I am saying."

Fox, "Comrades, the point at issue is not the retaliation or something, what really we are concerned with at this stage is the queer phenomenon about the velocity of the 'underground detonation experiments' referred to. Are these charges so powerful as to penetrate such thick strata of earth as that? Are the gasses thus produced so powerful as to kill everything coming in contact with them? And it is all true. The gasses finished up with the vast areas full of reptiles and no greater proof is required than man's own newspapers which announced some years ago about the 'mass snake suicide'. Man protects man. The press of one country does not expose the human felony of another country. Or is it for reasons of state that such happenings are shrouded in mystery?"

Elephants, "Perhaps latter is the case. I know human nature perfectly well."

Lion, "I concur."

Bison, "If this is the truth then what is the remedy?"

Chimpanzee, "The remedy is simple. Cover the earth, under, with the gasses of our own recipes and make it impossible for man to succeed in his earth experiments in the same way as we have decided to freeze the waters of the seas, making them inaccessible to man. Can we not try something of the sort?"

Fox, "Yes, there is. But then there is one danger and that is most of the cereals will not grow. Wheat will refuse to sprout."

Kite, "Here our wisdom fails."

Owl, "Excuse me. It will never fail. But in your case, yes, it might". This sarcasm invited peals of laughter from the audience. "In my humble opinion let the great representative of the reptile community himself state whether they have devised any counter-weapon to combat this new attack."

Rattle-snake, "We have, but our representative has been so frequently interrupted during the course of his report that it has become well nigh impossible for him to conclude."

Cobra, " Yes, we have got the remedy against this evil also. There is a plant of the Cactus family which in my junge they call 'Jal Mohini'. When you pluck the leaves or twigs of this plant some white milky substance oozes out of them. If this substance is collected and dried and the powder sprinkled on earth it makes the detonation of any nuclear weapon impossible within the radius of 2000 miles. As you know it very well if there will be no detonation there will be no blast, and if there is no blast then nothing will penetrate the ground and cause such a havoc as it did in the snake world.

"Therefore our Snake Conference had decided in its session to recommend this recipe to our general Conference. Hence, I am putting up this suggestion for your kind consideration."

President, "I propose that we accept this recommendation of the Snake Conference without any hitch. I hope there are no two opinions on this particular subject."

Crow, "None. And I promise to find out where this plant is found besides Rajasthan. In Rajasthan it grows wild for hundreds of miles together."

Owl, "Thank you Comrade Crow, you have already enriched our animal world with many of your discoveries like the Satan's Branch and Goat's Beard."

Cobra, "I have concluded my report."

President, "You have now to fulfil your promise about your non-violent acts which you promised to give when you were challenged about the theory of retaliation. You talked something about being fed on milk and so on and so forth."

Cobra, "Yes, Comrade, I am prepared with it."

"In the city of Jhansi there occurred an episode which thrilled the entire human world. It was like this: A cobra and a cat were fighting on a terrace in a street. On the same terrace a child was soundly asleep.

Whenever the snake was about to strike the cat always jumped over the child and thus the cobra could not have her

within the striking distance, always being afraid lest the child be hurt. The cat sometimes came behind the cobra and mauled him with her sharp paws on the back and sometimes on head. His hood was badly bleeding. In rage the cobra sprang on the cat and she again tried her old tactics of jumping over the body of the child. This time the vision of the snake was blurred owing to plenty of blood falling on his face from the head. Instead of striking at the cat the fangs fell on the child. The child died, the cat looked triumphant that she had defeated her adversary by diverting him to a wrong victim. This need not be dilated upon much. What happened next is of importance.

"The cobra, in repentance, sat crestfallen for over an hour near the body of the child irrespective of what deadly mauling he received from the cat. This was repentance and the cobra was expiating near the dead body; and in scorching sun which had just appeared over the wall of a house nearby. You may accept the story as truth or reject it as a piece of fiction. But it is all a true story, no fib."

President, "What about the milk story."

Cobra, "In a village in the northern state of India there was an old lady who used to get up early in the morning and churn her curds for making butter and butter-milk. I,one day, by curiosity, went and sat at a respectful distance watching the old lady rhythmically moving her hands to and fro with two ends of a rope piece around a stick in the curd pot. She took compunction for me and poured some milk in a dish and beckoned me to have it. And then she daily used to shout in the morning. Blackie, Darkie come on have your milk, and daily did I use to go to enjoy my breakfast. I never molested any member of her family not even when I felt offended at the minor offences of the children of that house or surroundings.

"Besides this instance, which I have given, the Indians often serve us with milk."

President, "I think that now time has come to say goodbye to one another with the happy resolution of meeting again in

some such congenial surroundings. Let us end this auspicious gathering with a nice chorus."

And the chorus started; it was a conglommeration of roars and grunts, chants and chirps, sweet melodies and shrill..

The End.

